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Received Oct 23. 1878
Rev. R. M. Hodge D.D.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

FOR A FAMILY,

WITH

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

"Cause us to hear of thy loving kindness, O Lord, in the morning; for in Thee do we trust: cause us to know the way wherein we should walk; for we lift up our souls unto Thee."

DIVINITY SCHOOL
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NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY CLAYTON & VAN NORDEN,
No. 64 Pine-street.

1825.

Southern District of New-York, ss.

(L. S.) BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the seventh day of October, A. D. 1825, in the fiftieth year of the Independence of the United States of America, William Henry Clayton, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"Daily Devotions for a Family, with occasional Prayers.

"Cause us to hear of thy loving kindness, O Lord, in the morning; for in Thee do we trust: cause us to know the way wherein we should walk; for we lift up our souls unto Thee."

In conformity to the act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the time therein mentioned." And also to the act, entitled, "An act, supplementary to an act, entitled, an act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints."

JAMES DILL,

Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.

PREFACE.

If social devotion be ever a duty, it is in no form more obligatory than in that of domestic prayer. Public worship is founded on no other principles than those which equally enforce the more retired worship of the family; and if the former has been justly deemed a most essential instrument of social virtue, the latter might easily be proved to be a mean no less important of the same effect. Perhaps there is no better way of prefacing a book of the kind which is here offered to the public, than by a simple statement of the good influences of the custom, to promote and assist which these pages were composed.

We may discover the importance of domestic worship, if we consider,—First, the effect which a conscientious attendance upon this duty must naturally produce in the character of the head of a family. As the act of worshipping God, together with those who sustain toward him the closest and most endearing relations, implies a sense of religion, so is it a perpetual auxiliary in the work of cherishing and increasing sacred impressions. A man cannot attend to this duty with any seriousness and sincerity, and not be more earnest

and upright in every other. The thought of the office he sustains as leader of the devotions of his house, must impose a salutary restraint, and induce a more guarded caution in the rest of his domestic intercourse; and a feeling of responsibleness to his family, the desire of consistency, and an unwillingness to be regarded with suspicion or contempt by those to whom he thus holds out an example,—the natural consequences of this practice, will powerfully aid his self-government at all times. A new and strong inducement will thus be afforded to more exact fidelity in all the relative duties, and he will become a better husband, a better parent and master. A day commenced with an act so sacred, and so calculated to draw forth the purest feelings of the heart, will carry, on every hour of it, the stamp of piety. The desire of preparing himself to lead the devotions of his family in a suitable manner, will furnish every parent with incitements to the pursuit of religious knowledge, the study of the scriptures, and above all, to the cultivation of his own devout affections by secret prayer. Every sinful indulgence will be the more scrupulously avoided, and each christian virtue the more zealously practised. There is no more unequivocal proof of the sincerity of one's personal religion, than the uniform attention to the duty of domestic worship. Or, if this be not allowed, there is at least no

habit more directly leading to a vigilant self-examination to discover one's inward character, and more powerfully constraining to an upright and consistent external deportment.

Another advantage flowing from the practice of family prayer, is the promotion of the purposes of a religious education of the young. Mere teaching will have infinitely less effect on a child's mind, than the example of its parents. And when a family of children have grown up where no domestic prayer was ever heard, it is not possible they should have that disposition to pray themselves, or that taste for devotional duty, which they would have had in other circumstances. Can we conceive of any religious acts more likely to awaken and cherish in a tender heart the sentiments of piety, than those pious services in which they have joined with a revered and beloved parent, in the home endeared to them by the most interesting associations? Nothing is more likely to secure a place for serious instruction in the youthful bosom, than the observances of domestic worship. They are continually repeated, and most persuasive calls upon them, teaching them the value and the purposes of religion; they leave impressions not easily to be erased; and if no prints of piety appear directly to ensue, yet in some future year, perhaps after the father has long lain in the tomb, the heart of the son

may return to the scene where he first beheld the devotions of his parent, and renew on that altar his own vows of piety.

Another benefit resulting from family prayer, is the opportunity it affords of bringing the several duties and truths, most necessary to be often recalled to the minds of those who sustain the domestic relations, strongly before their minds, and in the most solemn manner. Then, too, the consolations and encouragements of religion are felt with infinite tenderness when they are thus sought. Acts of domestic devotion are at once a protection against any interruptions of the harmony and kind affections which ought to prevail among the members of the same household, and the most efficacious remedy of all such evils. Hearts which often meet in God, cannot be easily divided in their mutual affection. Strife, and bitterness, and anger, can never be inmates of the same dwelling with prayer. The hour of worship, as often as it returns, will be an hour of peace, and tenderness, and love. In a word, domestic piety, while it most powerfully promotes all the virtues which render home sacred, keeps pure and bright the fountain of those joys which render it so dear.

As an aid to the proper government of a household, the practice of family prayer is of importance; while it affords occasion for improving parental authority

to the best purposes. Again, if we extend our regard beyond the limits of one dwelling, and consider the effect of the example of a family habitually observant of religious worship upon its neighbours, we can hardly fail to be convinced of the importance of this duty.

But these hints are enough, it is thought, to call the attention of the reader to the subject. The more he reflects upon it, the more he must be convinced that the custom of uniting all the members of a family at such frequently recurring seasons, in a devout acknowledgment of God, ascriptions of praise and gratitude for each favour enjoyed, supplications for the blessings needed, and a humble resignation of themselves to the will of Heaven, must have a most salutary effect. All which reason suggests as natural and right in creatures like ourselves—all which scripture reveals of our obligations, hopes, and final account—goes to enforce such a practice; nor can any objection to this duty be brought, which is of weight sufficient to counterbalance the least of the advantages which flow from it.

The design of these, as of all forms of prayer, is rather to aid than to supersede the labours of those who employ them. No one mind can express the feelings of all other minds; nor is it possible that we should be so well satisfied with the expressions formed for us, as with those we select for ourselves. Both

the greater profit and the higher satisfaction of the exercise of prayer, will require that we use helps only as such, and that we learn as soon as possible to do without them, or, rather, to go beyond them. Every family has its own peculiar circumstances, which ought, as much as may be, to form subjects of prayer or praise. And if the mind be scrupulously confined at all times to a form of words prepared beforehand, it may lose much of that fervour, which it else would increase, by acts of worship.

The writer would not be supposed to have published these forms with any idea of excelling those already in use; but these, it was thought, were not so numerous as to render useless the addition of others. His aim has been to make the prayers as simple as possible, and to comprise all that variety of subject and expression which the case required. The public will judge of the execution with the kindness, it is hoped, which a well-intended endeavour is thought to deserve;—and that his book may be the means of increasing the influences of piety, and the virtues of social life, is the prayer of the author.

PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

ETERNAL GOD, creator of the world, we devoutly call upon thy holy name. Help us in these solemn moments of worship, to separate our thoughts from every other object, and fix them upon thee. Penetrate our souls with a sense of thy divine excellence. Mingle with each emotion of our hearts, the influences of thy sanctifying spirit. Fill us, O GOD, with a lively conviction of thy greatness and glory, a tender sense of thy gentleness and love, an awful impression of thy justice and authority. Pardon all which shall be unworthy in our offering, and accept whatever in it is sincere.

O thou who hast life in thyself, the first and the supreme; from whom all other

beings derive their existence, and to whom all other beings owe their powers; we prostrate ourselves before thee. By thy permission only we exist. Thy word can instantly destroy, as it did originally create us. Each motion of our mortal bodies, and every feeling of our immortal souls, teaches us our dependence and our frailty. Without God, we are nothing, and can do nothing. Having breathed into us the breath of life, and inspired us with understanding, thou didst, in the exposure and weakness of infancy, protect and cherish us. Our helplessness could not have survived a moment, but for the help imparted from above. And it is thy hand, O God our Father, which did open to us the path of life, as our minds expanded, and our years increased; inspiring us with hope, girding us with strength, leading us in safety through the perils of youth, and measuring out for us the labours of maturity. Thy bountiful goodness, which giveth food to all flesh, hath given us our necessary sustenance, hath nourished and brought us up; and it is because thy compassions fail not, that we continue to this

time, and are among the living to praise thee.

Source of our life, intelligence and happiness, we adore, we bless, we magnify thy name; and not only in ourselves, but in all the things which were made by thine eternal power, we discover the evidences of thy perfection. The heavens declare thy glory. The firmament showeth thy handy-work. By thy wisdom, thou hast founded the earth, and it is full of thy riches: so is the great and wide sea, to which thou hast given bounds, that it may not pass over. The everlasting mountains, which thy hand alone could rear, are monuments of thy greatness. The fertile fields yield only the fruits of thy divine bounty. The valleys are wet with the dew of heaven, and every herb and every plant proclaims almighty skill. Innumerable beings, to whom thou hast given life, wait ever upon thee; the witnesses for thee, that thou art good. All creatures show forth thy ceaseless praise. Marvellous are thy works, Lord God omnipotent; and in wisdom hast thou made them all. Thine irresistible power strikes us with dread; thy bound-

less knowledge fills us with astonishment. Thy governing providence, and redeeming love, call for our adoring homage and our fervent gratitude. We revere thy spotless purity. There is none holy, as thou, Lord, art holy. We stand in awe of thy majesty: we bow submissive to thy righteous will. All thy ways are right; all thy laws are just; none of thy commandments are grievous. We admire, we love, we trust in thee. Father of our spirits, imprint thine image on our souls. Of all which is good thou art the author; of all which is excellent, the springs are in thee. Teach us to discern the beauty of holiness, and help us to pursue that virtue which thou lovest. May we come soon to a nearer resemblance of thee; may we continually seek to resemble thee more. By the doctrine of him who came down from heaven to show us the Father, Great God! may we learn what thou art, and what thou requirest us to be: and by the example of Jesus, our saviour, the image of the invisible God, may we be excited to become the imitators of God, as dear children.

This day, merciful Parent, we beseech

thee to be with us. Assist us to hallow it. Let its tranquillity be unbroken by worldly cares; its duties undisturbed by evil passions; its sacred pleasures unalloyed by earthly desires. May all our conversation be as becometh saints. In the sanctuary, let the presence of God be devoutly realized; and at home, thy nearness to us be tenderly felt. Prepare us, Heavenly Father, for all the services of the sabbath. Shed down thy gracious blessing on each member of this family. Pardon all our sins. Fill our hearts with thy love, and grant us a part in thy great salvation. Gather us all into the fold of the great shepherd; and receive us at last to the mansions of our Father's house, to go no more out for ever.

These our supplications and thanksgivings we offer unto thee, the fountain of all good, in the name, and as the disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us in thy holy word exceeding great and precious promises, create in us that entire confidence in thy goodness which those assurances are intended to inspire. May our piety be unmingled with gloom, and yet free from all presumption. With reverential fear, may we unite filial love; with undoubting trust, the spirit of contrition; with ardent gratitude, lowliness of mind. Let not our hope be that which perisheth when thou takest away the soul. Let not our fear be that which causeth despair.

We thank thee, O GOD, for thy *rich* grace manifested to a world lying in wickedness, in that thou wert pleased to compassionate the condition into which mankind, by their departure from thee, had fallen, and didst send thy Son from heaven to dispel the darkness of ignorance and superstition; to quicken them who were dead in trespasses and sins, and to turn the hearts of thy disobedient children unto thee. We rejoice in that

deliverance which Jesus Christ, by his labours and miracles, his sufferings and death, effected for the human race. Where once there was enmity to God, he has made reconciliation. Where once sin abounded, he hath established the reign of truth and virtue. Where once the sorrows of a hopeless death were the termination of a painful life, he hath brought the consolations of immortality, and revealed the joys of an eternal state of happiness beyond the grave. We thank God for that forgiveness of sins which is preached in the name of Jesus to all the world; for the heavenly precepts which his gospel contains for our guidance in duty; for the inviting encouragements there presented to induce us to escape from the corruption that is in the world; for that hope set before us which is as an anchor to the soul, sure and steadfast. We thank God, that as Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, so he arose again from the dead, and shall appear a second time unto them that look for him without sin unto salvation.

Grant us grace, Almighty Father, so to believe and obey thy gospel, that we

may obtain that eternal life which thou hast promised. May we give earnest heed to the things which concern our everlasting peace, lest we fall into condemnation, and lose our souls. Awaken our fears; quicken our zeal; animate our hopes, and assist us to give all diligence to make our calling and election sure. Let not the truths which we have this day heard, be lost upon us. Deliver us from criminal indifference, and impious ingratitude. May the duties which we have been solemnly taught, be faithfully fulfilled. May the instructions designed for our spiritual good, be seriously considered; thy whole truth be engrafted into our minds, and bring forth its blessed fruits in our lives. Give efficacy to our pious resolves. Confirm each holy desire. Help us to set our affections on things above. Reclaim us from any error into which we may have fallen, and deliver us from the sins which most easily beset us. Keep ever in our minds a lively sense of our responsibleness to thee, and assist us to live in all respects as becometh those who must give account. O Thou, by whom actions are

weighed, and motives discerned; who art merciful to forgive the penitent, but wilt by no means clear the incorrigibly guilty; grant that we may find mercy of thee in the day of judgment, and be presented faultless before the throne of thy glory with exceeding joy.

We earnestly beseech thee to extend the knowledge of thyself, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent, throughout the world. May the religious privileges which we enjoy, be communicated, in thy good time, to every nation under heaven. And wherever the gospel is now preached, may its sanctifying power be largely experienced. May all who name the name of Christ, be careful to depart from iniquity. May a spirit of enlightened piety, and of unfeigned charity, prevail in the churches of our Lord and Saviour. Preserve unity, peace, and concord among men, and let the cause of truth and righteousness be every where maintained.

Hear these our petitions for ourselves and for others, through thy mercy in Jesus Christ, in whose name we ascribe unto thee all glory and praise. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

GREAT and glorious GOD, the day is thine, the night also is thine. Thou hast prepared the light and the sun. We would show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. It is thou who sustainest us in the defenceless hours of sleep, and when we awake we are still with thee. Encompassed by the same care which guarded us by night, we go forth to the labours of the day. O GOD, our trust is in thee. Accept our grateful acknowledgments for the repose which has invigorated our frame, and for the restored activity and cheerfulness of our minds. Give also to our virtuous principles fresh strength, and revive with new activity our desire to be approved of thee in all our undertakings. Returning to the labours of our ordinary calling, may we not leave behind us that salutary caution which past experience has inspired, nor be unwisely forgetful of the dangers which still surround us. Let not the still small voice of conscience be allowed to escape unheeded.

amid the excitements of earthly pursuits, and the turbulence of our passions. Nor let us, O God, be led astray from our only true interest, by the allurements of uncertain, temporary good. Incline our hearts to thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Restrain us from selfish indulgences. Let not an indolent habit weaken our powers, nor a worldly temper pervert them. With contentment may we receive, and with thankfulness enjoy the gifts of thy good providence. But save us from too fond a reliance on the comforts and hopes which pertain only to this world. In all our intercourse with others, may we do unto them as we would have them do unto us. May the law of kindness be on our lips, and good will toward all men dwell within our breasts. May we delight in every opportunity of doing good; and in no instance may we be the occasion of evil to a fellow-being.

Cherish within us, Heavenly Father, the tenderest concern for the happiness of those relatives and friends with whom thou hast united us in one family. May we mutually endeavour to discharge our domestic

duties with tenderness and fidelity. Let the meek, gentle, and pure spirit of the blessed Jesus, possess our hearts, and influence all our conduct. With mutual affection and forbearance, may we endeavour to ease the burdens, and mitigate the pains which any of us may be called to endure. Let tranquillity, harmony, and love, abide in our dwelling, and the voice of health and cheerfulness continually be heard in it. And wilt thou, Heavenly Father, extend thy loving kindness to all such as are connected with us by the ties of nature, or of friendship. Delight in their prosperity and virtue here, and make them heirs hereafter of the inheritance of thy saints.

O Thou, whose blessing is on the habitation of the just, let thy mercy encompass our abode, and follow us in all our ways. Be evermore our guide, comforter, and support; and from our united hearts accept this tribute of devotion, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

MONDAY EVENING.

UNTO thee do we lift up our souls, O Thou who dwellest in the heavens, but whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain. Thine eyes, O GOD, are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. Thou art never far from any one of us, and we cannot flee from thy presence. There is no darkness, or shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. The darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

We believe that thou seest us at this moment, and discernest every thought and intention of our hearts; all the motives which actuate, and all the feelings that control us. We believe that thou art acquainted with all our ways, and takest notice of every word we utter, and every action we perform. Great GOD, impress this momentous truth upon each of our minds, and cause it to sink deep into our hearts. By day and by night, at home and abroad, in solitude and in society, in business and in pleasure, however occupied, and in whatever place

or circumstances, may we remember that thou art with us, and that no fault we commit will be overlooked, no virtue we cultivate unnoticed, no prayer which we utter unheard, and no praise which we express forgotten by God. Encircled in thy protecting arms, may we fear no evil. Encompassed by thine awful presence, may we dread all sin. When exposed to danger, may we find a rescue from terror by committing ourselves instantly to our faithful creator. When discouraged by difficulties, may our hope be revived by looking upward to thee, from whom our help cometh, and who will not suffer us to labour in vain. When distressed by calamity, may we take refuge in thy mercy, and find peace by staying our minds on God. Through life, may we act always as seeing him who is invisible. In death, may we find our consolation in the presence of him, who, when flesh and heart fail, will be the strength of our heart, and our portion for ever.

Almighty guardian, benefactor, and guide, who daily loadest us with benefits, and hast brought us in safety and comfort to another night, accept our grateful ac-

knowledgments for all the blessings by which we are now surrounded. Let not the frequency of thy mercies occasion us to forget their value, or make us cease to feel that they are all unmerited. Let not the constancy of thy goodness make us insensible to our dependence upon thy will, nor permit us to rely on our present security and happiness as a pledge for our future condition. In thy wise and gracious providence, thou hast ordained that our present state of being should be precarious, full of changes, and abounding in trials. We have here no abiding-place, no unmixed happiness. We are pilgrims and sojourners on the earth, as all our fathers were. Preserve us ever mindful of the uncertainty of life, and all its enjoyments; and while we thankfully avail ourselves of all the gifts of thy bounty, may we never be guilty of loving the creature more than the creator, or of laying up treasure for ourselves upon earth, to the neglect of that better and more enduring substance which we have in heaven. Help us so to pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not things eternal, but obtain an en-

trance to that kingdom where are pleasures for evermore.

Accept whatever of duty we have this day performed. Forgive whatever has been sinful in us. Let no evil come nigh us or our dwelling in the night, and bring us to the morning, rejoicing still in thy great goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

TUESDAY MORNING.

INFINITE and ever-blessed GOD, who doest thy pleasure among the armies of heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth; we thy creatures, whom thou hast lifted from the dust, and wilt bring to the dust again, would, with deep self-abasement, do homage to thine eternal power and majesty. In thine hand our breath is, and thine are all our ways. Thou castest down and raisest up; thou makest rich, and makest poor; thou givest, and thou takest away. All things are subject to thee, and thou orderest them according to the counsel of thine own will. Heaven and earth shall

pass away, but thy word shall not fail. None can deliver out of thine hand; none can resist thine appointments. All power belongeth unto thee. O God, while we stand in awe of this thine unsearchable greatness, we would rejoice that thou reignest thus uncontrolled over thy creatures. For, blessed be thy name, we can every where see that all thy power is exercised in wisdom, and all thy supremacy manifested in love. Thou art a just God and a Saviour. Thou hatest nothing which thou hast made. Thou dost not oppress, and canst not do wrong. We rejoice that, feeble as we are, it is not upon an arm of flesh that our confidence is reposed; that since we are too blind to discern, and too weak to pursue those ends which alone are wise and good, there is one above us infinite in knowledge, and mighty in strength, to appoint our condition. We bless thee, O God, that we are not left to ourselves, needy and sinful as we are, but are the charge of thy faithfulness, and dependent on thy righteous and holy will.

Almighty Sovereign, let the thought of

thy power be a terror to us only when we are tempted to disobey thee. In the sincere endeavours we make toward the performance of our duty, may it be our delight to cast ourselves upon thee with the full conviction that thou art able to sustain us. Amid all the perplexity and darkness which cover the present scene of our existence; amid all the disorders and revolutions of human affairs, may our minds be tranquillized by the remembrance that thy power and wisdom preside over all, and that thy counsel alone shall stand. Let the fear of thee banish all other fear from our minds. Let our reliance on thee be unwavering, and our submission to thee perfect. In every occurrence of our lives may we be enabled to say, it is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good.

O Thou who givest power to the faint, and to them that have no might increasest strength, give unto us that strength we require to do and to bear thy whole will and pleasure. In thine everlasting arms support us; by thy mighty power defend us. Let thy grace be sufficient for us, and thy

strength be perfected in our weakness. Encompassed with infirmity, we implore the continual aids of thy spirit to help our infirmities. In the midst of temptation, we beseech thee, O God, not to suffer us to be tempted above what we are able, but with every temptation to make a way for our escape.

We render thee thanks for the light of another day. We entreat thy favour to accompany it. May every hour be usefully employed, and all our engagements be consecrated by a regard to thy presence. Let this day also close, Heavenly Father, in innocence and peace.

Through him who died once for all, but now liveth by the power of God, we offer our prayer, and ascribe to thee, O King of kings, and Lord of lords, endless praises. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of joy and hope, the GOD of peace and consolation, who art the happiness of heaven, and the delight of all that know thee on the earth; impress our hearts with the thought of thine unbounded goodness. Help us to feel, as well as believe, that thou art love; that the happiness of thy creatures is precious in thy sight, and that thou wilt never withhold from them any real good. Help us to contemplate the wide and ceaseless operations of thy hand with gratitude and joy. May our minds gather up the proofs which so abound every where, of thy care and bounty. May we perceive every token of thy grace and mercy in our own condition, and rejoice to trace thy blessings in the condition of every thing which lives around us. O GOD, till we know thee, we know nothing aright; till we love thee, we cannot taste that felicity of which thou hast made us capable, and which our souls so ardently desire. Without thee, whatever else we may seem to possess, we are poor

and miserable, and have nothing which is of any worth. In wandering from God, we forsake all good, and become the prey of inevitable wo.

We lament, O Father, that we are so prone, after all which thou hast done for us, to exclude thee from our affections. We lament that not even thy immeasurable and unceasing goodness to us, has awakened in our souls those returns of gratitude which are thy due. We lament that we have not been drawn more closely to thee by thy repeated kindness, but have so often thoughtlessly forgotten, and ungratefully disobeyed thee. Forgive this great unworthiness. Pardon this abuse of thy mercy. And wilt thou now accept, Heavenly Father, our offered thanks for each blessing which our lot contains; for the endowments of our minds, and the faculties of our bodies; the satisfactions of the senses, and the pleasures of the soul; for the peace, and plenty, and health, which are yet found in our abode, and for the prospect of future well-being. We thank thee, O God, that we have so long been permitted to experience

the happiness which results from the relations of kindred and friendship; that our domestic union and social attachments have been preserved and blessed by thy continued care. Thy hand hath fashioned the human heart, and we delight to behold in the tenderness of our own hearts another evidence that thou art love. May we be yet more sensible that our friends are the ministers of God to us for good, and never forget that thy favour exceeds all earthly friendship, and that the gifts of thy bounty are greater and more numerous than any other benefactor could bestow. Still enable us, O God, to be the instruments of blessing in all the relations we sustain; and let thy grace consecrate all our connexions, and cause them to issue in our spiritual and eternal welfare.

Our most fervent thanksgivings are due to thee, both now and at all times, for the manifestation of thy love in the redemption of the world by thy Son Jesus Christ. Thou hast not confined thy goodness to us to the present life, but, blessed be thy name, O God of our salvation, hast extended it to our future and everlasting condition. Thou

hast opened to us the prospect of never-ending improvement in knowledge and virtue; thou hast made us capable of a happiness infinitely transcending all earthly good, and enduring for ever, without interruption or decay. O may we ardently aspire after that glorious felicity. Let not the pleasures of earth and sense be permitted for a moment to come in competition with the joys of heaven and of eternity. May the hope of a reunion to departed friends solace our hearts under the conviction that our separation is inevitable here, and that death must soon sever the closest ties. May the darkness of thy providence be illumined by the joyful expectation of that state in which our ignorance shall be remedied, and thy goodness shine forth without obscurity. May the desire to be accepted of thee in the day of judgment, and of becoming partakers of the felicity which flows from thy eternal presence, be our defence in temptation, our encouragement in duty, and our support in affliction. May we have that perfect love of thee, O God, which casteth out fear, and attain to the highest gratitude of which our nature is capable.

We would now yield ourselves unto thee, to be disposed of according to the counsel of thine own will, assured that thou alone knowest what is best for us, and canst bestow on us what we need. Accept this dedication, and hear the prayers which we have now offered thee through Jesus Christ thy dear Son; through whom, to thee, be all honour and glory. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

FATHER of lights, and fountain of all wisdom, impressed with sentiments of awe and veneration, we would approach thine infinite majesty. Thou art not worshipped as needing any thing at our hands; but it becomes us, who are the creatures of thy power, the subjects of thy government, and the dependents on thy bounty, to pay thee our adoration. We would esteem it a pleasure and a privilege that we bear our part in those praises which all holy and good beings delight to render thee. Wilt thou animate our devotions, and cherish within us those religious affections which

are the springs of devotion. Increase our faith, our humility, and our trust; give us patience under the trials thou ordainest for us, and a grateful sense of the favours we receive from thy bounty. With penitence we confess that we are too prone to forget thee, O God, and lightly to esteem the rock of our salvation. We lament the coldness and languor which have sometimes destroyed the satisfaction, and impaired the virtue of our religious services. We lament that the obedience we have attempted to render to thy laws, has been so partial, so inconstant, and constrained. We lament that inordinate attachment to earthly good which has weakened our desire of thy favour, and made us less earnest in the preparation for heaven. We lament the many sins which we have committed through the want of vigilance, and under the impulses of passion. We lament the faults of our temper, and our hearts; of our dispositions and our conduct. O God, convince us more strongly, we beseech thee, of the necessity of laying aside every weight, and the sins which so easily beset us; of mortifying our evil affections and

desires, subduing every passion, and every thought of our hearts to the obedience of Christ. Thou hast taught us, by the voice of conscience, by our past experience, by our observation of the world, and by thy holy word, that there is no peace to the wicked. Pardon, we entreat thee, our manifold offences, and help us to resolve that we will offend thee no more. Suffer us not to be discouraged by the difficulties we meet with in our endeavours to attain that excellence which we are taught to approve. Assured that every sincere, though imperfect endeavour, will not fail of its reward, and that thou, O God, wilt compassionate the infirmities which we penitently confess; may we patiently continue in well-doing, and endure even unto the end.

Indulgent Parent! we thank thee for the return of another day, and for the unbroken repose of the night preceding it. Relying on thy wise and faithful disposal, we would cheerfully renew the various labours of life. In each event which may befall us, help us to acknowledge thee, and in every thing we do, may we seek to please thee. Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our tres-

passes, as we forgive those who trespass against us; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GREAT GOD! behold now with thine accustomed goodness, thy feeble creatures, who come to implore thine almighty protection. The frailties of our bodies, and the infirmities of our minds; our many exposures and continual wants; the sorrows we have experienced already, and the sufferings which we have yet to encounter in this mortal life, compel us to seek in thee our safety and repose. And, O GOD, it is our joy and consolation that thine arm, which has been so often extended for our relief, will still afford us its support in every time of need. If we fall, thou canst raise us up. If we go astray, thou canst restore us. If we are tempted, thou canst make a way for our escape. If we suffer, thou canst give us a happy issue out of all

our afflictions. We, therefore, will commit the keeping of our souls unto thee. Faithful Creator! we will fear no evil, for thou art with us. We will cast all our care upon thee, for thou carest for us. We believe, and are persuaded, that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. If God be for us, none can be against us; and since thou didst not spare thine own Son, but delivered him up for us all, we would not doubt, that with him, thou wilt freely give us all things else, which are necessary for us. Forgive us, Heavenly Father, if we have suffered ourselves, at any time, to question thy goodness, or been betrayed into a querulous impatience, or irreligious anxiety, or ungrateful despondence. Forgive us, if, in the hour of weakness, our hearts have yielded to fears inconsistent with a perfect confidence in thee, or indulged in distress, forgetful of thy mercy. Help us, we beseech thee, to cherish the conviction that thou art good in every trial which assails us. Nor permit us, blessed God, to depart from that trust in thy mercy which is our only unfailing support.

Receive the tribute of our fervent thanks, for the benefits which have crowned this and every day of our lives; that thou hast conducted us thus far on our pilgrimage in security; hast so seldom smitten us with the rod of thy judgments, though we have deserved thy displeasure; and hast enabled us to bear all which thou hast inflicted. We bless thy kind and gracious providence, for the escapes we have made, when danger overtook us; for the safety we have enjoyed, amidst so many perils. We thank thee, that the light of our eyes is yet unquenched, our limbs still active, our senses perfect, and our bodies in health. We thank thee, that no fatal malady has bereft us of our reason, and no oppressive burdens broken our hearts. We thank thee, that we yet are suffered to retain both the opportunity and the means of happiness and virtue; that thou hast made our habitation the abode of peace; that thou still preservest to us the inestimable comforts of domestic and social endearments; hast spread the table of thy bounty before us, and satisfied all our wants. For all our prosperity in our temporal pursuits, and all our hopes of

spiritual good, we bless thy holy name. And now, O Lord God, gracious and merciful, with firm reliance on thy power, and wisdom, and love, we commit ourselves and all our interests, for time and for eternity, to thy faithful keeping. From the arrow that flieth in darkness, and the destruction that wasteth at noonday, wilt thou defend us. Lead us in the way which is best for us in this life, and hereafter, receive us to that blissful abode, which is prepared for them that love thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Almighty God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst not spare thine own Son, but deliver him up for us all, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have eternal life; impart unto us, his disciples, such a sense of this great salvation, that we may have all joy and peace in believing. Enable us more fully to realize the magnitude of those evils and dangers to which by sin we are exposed,

and thus to discover more clearly the extent of our obligations to that Saviour who came down from heaven to give life unto the world. Deeply impress our hearts with the inestimable worth of the human soul, the excellence of its powers, and the importance of those purposes for which it was created after the similitude of God. Teach us rightly to apprehend the nature of that salvation for which we are so greatly indebted. May we know that it is indeed an evil and bitter thing to have forsaken the Lord our God, and transgressed his holy laws. May we reflect with shame and humiliation upon our manifold offences. May we tremble before the threatenings of thy word, and be melted to contrition by thy merciful promises. May we be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the length and breadth, the height and depth, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.

O Thou who art rich in mercy, we desire to bless thee continually for the great love wherewith thou hast loved us. We thank thee for our rational and moral nature; for those faculties with which thou hast

endowed us, which render us capable of infinite attainments in knowledge, virtue, and happiness; which exalt us to communion with thyself, and fit us for thy love and service. Thine inspiration hath given us understanding; and by thy goodness we are called to glory and honour, to virtue and immortality. We would reflect with continual joy and gratitude, on that deliverance from guilt, and depravity, and death, which thou, O God, hast wrought for us by thy Son Jesus Christ. We thank thee, that thou didst send him to bless us by turning us from our iniquities; that he had power on earth to forgive sins; that he hath reconciled us unto God by his blood, when by wicked works we were enemies to thee; that he came to teach us thy character; to assure us of thy mercy; to recover us to virtue; to comfort our sorrows; to deliver us from the power of death, and prepare us for an endless life in a better world. We bless thee, most gracious God, that we are instructed and encouraged to ask for the aid of thy holy spirit, by him on whom it was poured without measure, and who has left us the assurance that thou

art more ready to give good gifts unto us, than an earthly parent is to communicate to his children. May we share in this and every other blessing of the grace that is revealed to us by Jesus Christ. Establish thy truth, O God, in each of our minds, and shed its influences on each of our hearts. May the dispositions of thy children be formed within us. May the spirit of our Saviour possess the control over us. May we adorn his doctrine in all things, and ever glorify thee, O Father, by bringing forth much fruit under the discipline of thy providence and word. May we be numbered with those against whom there is now no condemnation; who walk not after the flesh. May we cheerfully follow our heavenly guide, bearing his cross; and at last enter into the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

We do not present these our supplications before thee, O God, for our righteousness, but for thy great mercy; beseeching thee to hear and forgive us in the name of him who maketh intercession for us; through whom, to thee be ascribed all honour and glory. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS GOD! who takest pleasure in them that fear thee, in such as hope in thy mercy; accept our humble desires to serve thee at this time, and assist us to worship thee aright. With simplicity and godly sincerity would we seek thee. Thou canst not be deceived, and wilt not be mocked; and if we regard iniquity in our hearts, we know, O LORD, thou wilt not hear our prayer.

We own our great unworthiness of the favours which we are about to ask, and of those numerous blessings we have already received. In lowliness of mind, may we be yet more fully sensible of our imperfections and sins. Clothe us in humility. Make us penitent that we have so often departed from the way of truth and goodness; that in so many things we have exposed ourselves to thy righteous displeasure; and in all our attempts to discharge our duty, that we have come so far short of that perfection after which we are taught to aspire, by our Saviour Jesus Christ. In his most worthy name we im-

plore the pardon of all our sins. And for thy great goodness' sake, O God, our Father, wilt thou grant us an exemption from those evils which our offences might justly be expected to draw down upon us. Let not iniquity be our ruin in this world, nor our destruction in that which is to come. Deliver us from all our transgressions. Renew a right spirit within us; and enable us henceforth to live a sober, righteous, and godly life, and to press forward towards the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus. May we exhibit in all our relations and employments in life, the fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Deliver us from an earthly mind. Save us from all coldness and indifference about the concerns of our souls. Take from us all selfishness, pride, anger, and discontent. Dispose us cheerfully to acquiesce in thy will; thankfully to enjoy thy bounty, and with a devout and confiding heart, to meditate upon thy divine perfections. May we be kindly attentive to the condition of all with whom we are connected; looking not at our own things only,

but at those of others. Teach us condescension towards such as are of low estate. Open our hearts to the claims of the poor, the sick, and destitute. So far as we have ability, may we cheerfully minister to their necessities. May we be enabled to comfort any who are in tribulation with the consolations wherewith we ourselves are comforted in Christ. Assist us to keep ourselves unspotted from the evil that is in the world; and whatsoever we do, to do all to thy glory. May we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us, and gave himself for us. Preserve in us a lively remembrance of our obligations to that Saviour who hath done so much for us; and let it be our continual study, to prepare ourselves, by the practice of his religion, for the glorious rewards which are promised to such as endure unto the end.

Accept our gratitude, Heavenly Father, for thy goodness in keeping us another day from all grievous calamity, and continuing to us the comforts from which flows so much happiness. We thank thee for the food which has sustained us; for the safety and peace by which we have been en-

compassed; for the regular exercise of all our mental and bodily powers; for preservation from great transgressions; for the blessed hopes of Christianity, and the joyful conviction of thine everlasting mercy. As parents and as children, as individuals and as a family, we would raise to thee our tribute of ceaseless praises. And by the love thou hast ever manifested towards us, by the promises of thy most holy word, and thine infinite compassion in Christ Jesus, we beseech thee still to grant us what is good for us. Let our dwelling be an holy habitation to the Lord. Let these bodies be meet temples for thy spirit; and when our earthly house of this tabernacle shall be dissolved, may we find that we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. We would go to our rest at peace with thee, and with our own souls. In the defenceless hours of sleep, be thou our protector; and awaken us in the morning to the enjoyment of thy favour and blessing. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O God, who despisest not the prayer of the humble, nor forsakest those that put their trust in thee; with the returning day we renew our vows and supplications before thy throne. Blessed be thy name, that, coming as the disciples of him who is seated at the right hand of the majesty on high, we may have access with confidence unto the Father. Assuredly believing in thy readiness to hear us, we rejoice in every opportunity to make known our requests, and offer our praises to thee.

We adore thine impartial goodness. Thou art no respecter of persons, neither regardest the rich more than the poor, for all are the work of thine hands. We admire thine immutable truth. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but thy word never faileth. We contemplate with awe and veneration thy spotless purity. Thou hast no pleasure in wickedness; neither can evil approach or dwell with thee. We praise thee, O God, as the sovereign, lawgiver, and judge of the universe; whose dominion is an

everlasting dominion, and whose law is the truth. We adore thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; a God *ready* to pardon, gracious and merciful, *slow* to anger, and of great kindness. Thou hast granted us life and favour, and thy visitation preserveth our spirits. Thou hast taught us more than the beasts of the earth, and made us wiser than the fowls of heaven. Thou hast created us in the image of thine own eternity, and imparted to us a portion of thine own intelligence. O God, our Maker, there be many that say, who will show us any good? Lift thou upon us the light of thy countenance. Help us to feel the greatness and dignity, the happiness and glory of our relation to thee. Help us to employ the exalted powers of our immortal minds upon those objects which are most worthy our high original, and heavenly destination. Enlighten our understandings with the light of truth. That which we see not, teach thou us. Grant us to attain all that knowledge which is necessary and profitable for us; but preserve us from a vain curiosity and fruitless anxiety concerning those secret things

which belong to thee. May we ever remember that thine unerring wisdom appoints the destiny of thy creatures; and that no real evil can come nigh those who are guarded by thee. May the manifestations of thy glorious nature and character, which are so abundantly spread around us, engage our thoughts, and interest our affections. O may we learn to see God in all which we behold; to look up to thee as the great author and pattern of all which is beautiful, magnificent, or good in nature; and to adore thee as the source of all which is lovely, pure, and excellent in our fellow-beings. Wherever there is enjoyment, may we know that thou art the giver of it. And when we are pained by the sight or the endurance of suffering, may we feel that even affliction is designed as the instrument of a higher good; that thou chastenest whom thou lovest.

Help us, O Thou most merciful being, to set thee ever before us; to live as seeing thee who art invisible. Quicken our consciences, that they may reprove us when we wander from thee. Enthrone thyself in our affections, that we may yield our-

selves without reluctance to thy control. Implant within us every good principle. Cause us to act under the influence of pure motives. Subdue our passions; restrain our desires; direct and hallow our thoughts. May no guile or evil communication proceed out of our lips; but that which is good to the edification of those around us. May we hold fast our integrity, and provide things honest in the sight of God and man. Let no selfish purposes interfere with our duties. May we seek first, and above all things, to please thee, and to work out our salvation. Keep us blameless in our intercourse with the world, and holy in our most secret retirements. May we be steadfast and unmoveable; always abounding in the work of the Lord. May we never be deterred from what is right by the fear of man, nor be allured by corrupt influence and example to what is sinful. May we stand perfect and complete in all the will of God; being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge and love of thee, our heavenly Father, and in that charity which is the end of thy commandments. And, at the last, may we

be found worthy to enter into the kingdom of our Lord, and meet to be partakers with thy saints in glory.

Parent, guardian, and benefactor of all men, we would remember in our prayers to thee, all those who dwell around us; all our fellow-christians, and all our fellow-men. May the bountiful stores of thy providence be opened for the relief of human want, and the consolations of thy spirit comfort the sorrows of mankind. Uphold all good institutions. Give efficacy to all wholesome laws. Succeed the means of education. Purify society from all corruptions of principle or practice. Let the pure and benign religion of Jesus be universally preached, and exert a powerful influence over the hearts of those who have professed to embrace it. Let thy kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy, be established in the earth; and thy will be done here, even as it is done in heaven. Hear and accept us, O God, in mercy, through thy Son our saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

EVER blessed and most glorious LORD our GOD, who art, and wast, and art to come; GOD in heaven above, in the earth beneath, and throughout all worlds, we reverently adore thee. Thou hast a just claim to our supreme affection, to our unbounded love. Thy service is our reasonable service. It is at once our privilege and our duty to pray to thee. From thee have we derived all our happiness. To thee we are responsible for all our conduct. Hallowed be thy name.

Since it hath seemed good to thee to preserve us in life another day, we would now render that tribute which is due to thee for this unmerited favour. We bless thee, O GOD, that thou hast caused the shades of night to descend upon us, and thus prepared us for another season of repose. Accept our united praises for that rich variety of comfort which thou hast permitted us to taste; for the delights of which our domestic relations are the source; for our social enjoyments; for all the success with

which our labours have been crowned; and for that tranquillity and peace which prevail in our abode. And, as at all times, so now would we give thee most fervent thanks for the infinite blessings of religion: of these, no change nor accident can ever deprive us; but when all other comforts have passed away, these will yet remain to be the support and satisfaction of our souls. O may we not deprive ourselves of these inestimable blessings, by folly, perverseness, and sin. Believing, as we do, that thy Son came into the world to deliver us from the bondage of corruption, and to raise us to the character and the felicity of the children of God, may we not fail to cleanse ourselves from all unrighteousness, and to perfect holiness in the fear of God. Suffer us not to forget that thou hast inseparably united our duty and our happiness; that the wages of sin is death, and that the hope of the ungodly perisheth.

Graciously accept whatever thou hast beheld in us agreeable to thy most holy will this day. If we have been able to govern our hearts and tempers, our words and actions, as becometh the gospel, we desire to rejoice

and render thanks to thee. If we have escaped from all iniquity, and been in any degree pious and exemplary in our deportment, to *thee* be the praise. But, O God, reflecting upon the manner in which this day has been spent, we have reason to humble ourselves for many imperfections. Pardon, we earnestly beseech thee, all our offences. Thou knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are but dust. Enter not into judgment with us, neither reward us according to our iniquities. May we have the sincerest penitence for our sins, and bring forth those fruits of repentance which are unto salvation.

Into thy hands, O Lord, we commit ourselves this night. Let thy gracious protection be with us in the defenceless hours of sleep; and permit us to behold the light of day with recruited strength, and prepared in all our powers for the events and duties which may then be before us. Extend thy blessing to all who are dear to us. May those who are bound to us by the tenderest ties, be united to thee in the bonds of a pure faith and fervent piety. Reward our benefactors,

Forgive our enemies, if we have any, and dispose us to recompense evil with good. Multiply grace, mercy, and peace, to all the churches of Jesus Christ. Let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. Send forth thy light and truth among the nations who sit in darkness and ignorance. Break the rod of the oppressor, and let the oppressed go free. Be gracious to all those who are in want and sorrow. Establish those who are in temptation. Support the weak. Increase the fruits of righteousness among those who call upon thy name, and fill the whole earth with thy glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O God, by whose mercy alone it is that we live and enjoy any good, help us to mingle with the cheerful emotions inspired by the return of day, those devout sentiments which our relation to thee ought ever to excite in our hearts. Impressed by the con-

viction that another season of secure and refreshing sleep has multiplied our obligations to thee, we would renew this morning the consecration of our bodies and spirits to thy service. Assist us, we earnestly pray thee, to keep ever before us the true ends of life, and constantly to remember that we are to give account for all the talents thou hast conferred upon us. May that desire of happiness which exists in every human heart, lead our hearts to thee, who alone art able to make us completely and for ever happy. May the necessity under which we lie, of labour and care in this our mortal state, cause in us no repining against thy providence. Dispose us, we implore thee, O God, with diligence, patience, and fidelity, to employ our faculties and strength in our appointed tasks. May we shun all sloth and idleness, both as sinful in themselves, and the occasions of still greater evils in their effects. May all our time be innocently and usefully occupied; and every power we possess be devoted to our duty. Deliver us from evil thoughts and irregular desires, from vain hopes and useless fears. May we take

heed and beware of covetousness; and in all respects use the world as not abusing it.

Grant us grace, meekly to bear the trials of this day, and to discharge all its duties as thine obedient children. Preserve our tranquillity. Supply our necessities. Be our ever-present counsellor, protector, and friend. Let thy spirit help our manifold infirmities. Endue us with that wisdom which is from above, and save us from the snares which beset us on every side. Keep our eyes from tears, our feet from falling, and our souls from death. Above all, keep us in the fear and service of thee, our maker and our judge. Since we are too ignorant to know what is best for us, too feeble to obtain it for ourselves, and too blind to discern the way which leads to it, we yield ourselves to thee, O God, to be disposed of according to thy will. All which we now have is thy gift; all which we hope for must proceed from thee; and we are assured that thou wilt make all things work together for good, to them that love thee, and believe in thy holy gospel. Direct us, therefore, into the love of God, and patient waiting for Jesus Christ. May we receive

thy truth in the love of it; be sanctified by its power, and guided by its light; be delivered from every evil work, and preserved unto thy heavenly kingdom.

We ask and offer all things in the name of Jesus Christ; through whom be ascribed unto thee, the only true God, ceaseless praises. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

God of the families of all the earth, with whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day—who existest for ever, the same holy, wise, just, and merciful being, we adore thy unchangeable perfection. Our foundation is the dust, and we are crushed before the moth. Behold, thou hast made our days as a handbreadth, and our age is as nothing before thee. We are the subjects of ceaseless vicissitude and inevitable decay; and all the glory and happiness of man endureth but a little while, and then passeth as the wind that returneth not again. May these considerations, which are so adapted to

humble our pride, to chasten our inordinate affections, and to disengage us from earthly dependencies, have on each of us their most salutary influence. Help us to realize the vanity of temporal things. Make us to know how frail we are. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

We adore that mercy which conceals from us what shall be on the morrow. We thank thee, O Father, that we possess not the ability of foreseeing those occurrences which await us in the days, months, or years, which are yet to elapse before our end shall come. Assist us to check every anxious thought concerning futurity; remembering that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. But may our entire ignorance of the events yet to come, and the uncertainty of all our expectations, excite us to redeem the time, and to be instant in season to discharge every duty incumbent upon us. Save us from the presumption and folly of deferring any work which thou givest us to do, and which it is in our power to perform, till some future period. Especially, may we

not delay the great business of a christian preparation for death and judgment. Author of our existence, we rejoice that our best hopes are placed on a secure and immoveable foundation; that leaning on thine almighty arm, we have a support which no arm of flesh can give. With thee there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We may rely on thee amid every vicissitude, since not even death can separate us from thee. Blessed be thy name, that we are permitted thus to make thee our refuge. May we seek thee with our whole hearts, that so we may not fail of consolation under any present trial, and may meet every event before us without dismay. We desire to resign ourselves now and evermore to thy disposal; trusting that thy goodness will adapt our strength to our duties, and with every trial afford all needed grace to help us to bear and to improve it.

With sentiments of devout gratitude, we would close another day and week. If thou, O God, seest in us any sin of which we are ignorant ourselves, in mercy deliver us from our blindness, and

purge our iniquity from us. If thou seest any virtue begun in us, help us to carry it forward to perfection. May we go to our rest at peace with thee, with our own minds, and with all the world. Let thy guardian care be our shield and defence. And if our eyes shall behold another of the days of the son of man, may it be our first desire to enter on it in thy love, and to devote it to thy service.

Hear us, O God, in heaven, thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, answer and forgive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Blessed be thou, Lord God of our fathers, for ever and ever! Thou, even thou, art God alone. Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their hosts; the earth, and all things therein; the sea, and all that is therein; and thou preservest them all. Honour and majesty are before thee; thy name alone is excellent. The

innumerable company of angels worship thee; the spirits of just men made perfect worship thee; all thy works praise thee, and thy saints bless thee. Every good being must adore and love thee. Unite our hearts, O God, in thy most worthy praise. Let thy holy spirit sanctify us; let thy great compassion spare us; let thy bountiful goodness bless us.

Infinite Creator, we acknowledge our obligations to reverence the hand that made us; to submit to the power on which we depend; to be thankful to the author of all our happiness. We know that to obey thee is our first duty, and to trust in thee, our most precious privilege. The perfections of thy nature command our homage; the kindness of thy providence wins our affection. Every thing we see around us, every thing we feel within us, proves to us how much we owe thee, and how impossible it is for a moment to live or be happy without thee. O let these convictions of our minds be fixed unalterably there; never may we cease to feel and to acknowledge our dependence, as weak, ignorant, and erring creatures, on our almighty, omni-

scient, and perfect creator. Never may we cease to feel and to acknowledge our obligations to that God, who is alone able to provide for our wants, and by whose goodness we have ever been sustained, protected and blessed. O Thou who takest pleasure in them that fear thee, assist us, we beseech thee, in all our endeavours to perform our duty, and keep thy love in our hearts continually.

We would be thankful for those means of grace with which we are favoured; that thou, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, hast shined into our hearts, to give us the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ; that the everlasting gospel is preached in our land; that we have the holy scriptures in our own language; that we enjoy thy sabbaths; and may not only worship thee in our dwelling, but may go up with thy people to the house of prayer, and unite in a public tribute at the altar of our God. We bless thee, merciful Father, for all the hopes and comforts, which, as members of the household of faith, we partake with our brethren in Christ. And when

we are this day called to the recollection of our duties, destiny, and salvation, may we be deeply impressed with the value of our religion, and awakened to an earnest concern for our eternal interest. Let the divine authority of Jesus Christ be ever present to our minds, that we may beware of indifference, neglect, and contempt toward his instructions. And may we wait on the ministry of his faithful servants, with that seriousness which is due to the sacredness of their office, and that gratitude which we ought to cherish for those who in Christ's stead, pray us to be reconciled to God. Wilt thou, divine teacher and guide, illumine our understandings, direct our inquiries, warm our devotion, quicken our consciences, and keep our feet in the way of thy commandments. Pardon all our sins; subdue all which is evil, increase all which is good in us; and finally admit us to thine everlasting joy; through our only advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ the righteous: and unto thee be all glory and praise for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

GREAT GOD! who art nigh unto all them that call upon thee in truth, and hast promised that such as seek thee shall not want any good, we beseech thee to grant unto us thy merciful favour. Thou hast shown us the path of life, and hast made thy way plain before us. The dictates of conscience, the judgments of reason, the promptings of every good affection of our nature, unitedly instruct us in our duty to thee; and in the revelation which is by Jesus Christ, we are yet more fully and clearly taught the things which concern our everlasting peace. Let not all this knowledge be bestowed on us in vain. Let it not be our condemnation, that light has come into the world, but that we have loved darkness rather than light, because our deeds were evil. O GOD, when we meditate on all thy wonderful works, when we consider how great things thou hast done for us, when we contemplate the love manifested for us in each event of our lives, and above all, in the redemption from sin,

punishment, and death, which is provided for us in the gospel, we are constrained to admire and love thee, and inclined to devote ourselves to thee all our days. But we lament that these dispositions are not constantly prevalent within us. The cares of the world, the deceitful allurements of pleasure, and the desire for some present temporary good, too often beguile us into a forgetfulness of thee, and cause us lightly to esteem the rock of our salvation. We have erred and strayed from thy ways, and our sins are multiplied against thee. Like the morning cloud and the early dew, our best purposes and most devout affections too often pass imperceptibly away; or, through the violence of temptation, and the want of vigilance, we fall into deplorable guilt. Mindful how frequently we have declined from the path of duty, and sensible how exposed we still are to the same evils, we do now most earnestly entreat thee to keep us from falling, and evermore guide us in the paths of innocence and peace. Let the truths of religion sink deep into our minds, and powerfully affect our hearts. May we know what man-

ner of spirit we are of; and by frequent and faithful examination, prove ourselves that we may be prepared to encounter temptations from without. Let a solemn sense of our responsibleness abide in our minds. Looking forward to that day, in which thou wilt judge the secrets of all hearts, may we be more and more impressed with the impossibility of sinning without punishment, and the awful hazard of sinning without repentance. Spare us, O God, from those evils which, by our past offences, we have merited; and in time to come, assist us to walk worthy our high and holy vocation. Let the joys thou hast in reserve for them that love thee, animate our hopes; let the woes which await the ungodly inspire us with salutary fears. Increase our resolution to do, and our fortitude to bear, thy most holy will. Deliver us from all blindness of mind, from all hardness of heart, from presumptuous iniquity, and from secret sins. In all our pursuits, may we keep the end of life in view, that we may not labour merely for that which perisheth. In all our enjoyments, may we guard against that love of pleasure which is in-

consistent with the love of God. In all our sorrows, may we look up to thee, Heavenly Father, and be comforted with the assurance that thou wilt hereafter wipe away all tears from our eyes. Through life, may we constantly serve thee, and in death, triumphantly glorify thee; through him who giveth us the victory, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Great God! to thee we commit the keeping of our souls, as unto a faithful creator. Dispose of us as shall seem best in thy sight. We ask only for that good which flows from thy blessing. We refuse not any evil which thy wisdom shall appoint to us. Upon thee we fix all our hope; in thee, rest all our confidence; and unto thy name, Holy Father, be ascribed everlasting honour. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who day after day dost minister to sinful man infinite occasions of praising thee, accept our unfeigned thanks for all the blessings we have received from thy good providence. Thou art our GOD, and we will exalt thee; our fathers' GOD, and we will praise thy name. From the first moment of our existence, thou hast been doing us good. To thy mercy we owe it, that we have had our being in this highly favoured land; that we were made the charge of kind and virtuous parents, in our early years; have enjoyed in any measure the blessings of education, of civilized society, and of religion; and have been conducted thus far on the pilgrimage of life, in circumstances so advantageous to our improvement and happiness. We would gratefully contemplate the multiplied comforts of our past and present condition, and ascribe to thee, O GOD, the glory of all which we are or have. May we be disposed to think more of those blessings

thou hast conferred upon us; and less on those advantages thou hast been pleased to withhold. May no envious desires ever have a place in our breasts, but may we be able at all times to rejoice sincerely in the happiness of others, however apparently superior to ourselves. And let the humble and contented spirit of the gospel possess our hearts. May we obey, implicitly, the injunction which bids us take no anxious thought for the morrow; to be careful for nothing; but in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto thee. Assured as we are, that we have here no abiding place, but must soon go hence and be no more seen on the earth, may we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, and have our hearts there also. Remembering that our Lord and Master while on earth, had not where to lay his head; that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor; took upon him the form of a servant, and toiled, suffered, and died, that we might have eternal life; may we suppress every murmur that may arise under the trials we are called to endure, and cheerfully submit to whatever

thou mayest deem needful, to prepare us to reign with him above.

Pardon all our past unthankfulness and discontent. Pardon our want of faith, the coldness of our love to thee, and our unprofitableness under the discipline of thy hand. Pardon us, that we have attained to no nearer resemblance to our divine Master, and have no more of the mind that was in him. And now, Holy Father, we beseech thee to assist us to live more worthy of our high calling. Create in us a clean heart; renew a right spirit within us. May we mortify every corrupt affection, and restrain every inordinate desire; and be thoroughly sanctified in spirit, soul, and body. May we learn of Jesus, to be meek and lowly in heart; to be gentle and patient, slow to anger, and ready to forgive; pitiful, courteous, kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love. Help us to walk circumspectly; redeeming the time. Help us to walk uprightly; to put away from us all guile; and in simplicity and godly sincerity, to have our conversation in the world. May we be sober, just, holy, temperate, ready to every good work,

approving ourselves in the sight of God, and to our own consciences, and in all things unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God, who knowest the weakness of our nature, and how prone we are to yield to the temptations which we daily meet with, be pleased to grant us the continual aids of thy good spirit, that we may be effectually restrained from all sin, and excited to every duty. This day wilt thou keep us in the fear and love of thy holy name, in the faith and hope of Jesus Christ, and in the practice of all righteousness. Whatsoever we do, may we do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord we shall receive a recompense. Ignorant ourselves of what a day may bring forth, we commit to thy merciful care, O God, all our interests and concerns. In prosperity or adversity, health or sickness, joy or sorrow, may we glorify thee and improve our own souls. And when our days on earth are ended, may we be received to the society of pure and happy spirits in thy kingdom above, through thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O Thou most holy and perfect God, who dwellest in light inaccessible, and full of glory, and whom no mortal eye hath seen or can see, may thy name for ever be adored by us, and all thy creatures! We rejoice that thou reignest on earth as in heaven; and that though heaven and earth pass away, thou changest not. We adore thee for the manifestations of wisdom, order and beauty, in the universe thou hast made. We glorify thee for the wonderful display of power and goodness which we behold in the structure of our own bodies, and the capacities of our own minds. We praise and worship thee, as the lord of nature; the author and controller of those beneficent operations which are continually going on around us, but of which we see only a part. Thou causest the dayspring to know its place, and the sun its rising and going down. Thou makest darkness thy pavilion. Thou givest rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons. All eyes wait on thee. In thy hands is the

breath of every living thing; and thou givest food to all flesh. Thy blessing is upon thy people. The poor committeth himself unto thee. Thou art the refuge of the oppressed, the helper of the fatherless, and the widow's God and judge. Thou, O Lord, art our stay; it is thou that girdest us with strength, maintainest our lot, and causest our cup to run over with good. Let all the earth praise thee. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits.

Unto thee, our Heavenly Father, we offer our thanksgivings for thy continued care, and that mercy which has spared us to the close of another day. Thou hast upheld us in our daily labours; hast supplied our daily wants; hast been the health of our countenance, and the kind guardian of all our ways. Blessed be thy great and holy name. If in aught we have offended thee, O God, by thought, word, affection, or deed, we would penitently confess our guilt, and implore thy pardoning mercy. Permit us not to go to our rest with any unrepented sin upon our consciences; but may we be at peace with thee, with our own

hearts, and with all the world. In tranquil slumbers, may our powers of body and of mind be refreshed; and if it be thy good purpose that we should awake again, may we arise with a devout purpose of advancing to higher degrees of virtue and piety, than we have ever yet attained. Let thy blessing now descend upon us, Source of all good, and follow us through all our life.

And we beseech thee, regard with favour all those who have at any time desired an interest in our prayers, or whom we are bound, by the ties of nature or affection, to remember continually before thee. May our friends be partakers in the blessed influences and hopes of the christian religion. May they in all things adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, and experience in all circumstances its consoling and sustaining power. Promote the cause of truth and virtue. O God! diffuse the pure and heavenly spirit of Jesus through every portion of the community in which we live. May our immediate neighbourhood largely partake in its sanctifying and peaceful influences. May the rising generation be

brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and the aged christian be comforted and supported by thee. May the habits and principles which prevail, be refined and elevated by christianity. May intemperance and vice of every kind be restrained, and thy people lead quiet and peaceable lives, in all godliness and honesty. May this land be the asylum of liberty and religion. May the arm of the oppressor be broken in every portion of the earth, and the oppressed go free. May all false religions be banished from among men, and thy name be known and worshipped throughout the world.

These, and all our petitions, we present as disciples of Jesus Christ, ascribing unto thee, O Thou most high God, all glory for ever. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Infinite and eternal God! who hast commanded us, in thy holy word, to pray always, and who art ever more ready to give us good things, than we are to ask

them; as a family united by thee in the endearing connexions of domestic life, we desire to pay thee our tribute of homage and praise. With the deepest veneration would we contemplate thine adorable perfections. We worship thee, as the blessed and only potentate, King of kings, and Lord of lords, whose counsel alone shall stand; who doest all thy pleasure among the hosts of heaven, and the inhabitants of the earth. We worship thee as a pure and incorruptible spirit. Thou passest by us on every side, but we behold thee not; thou doest wonders continually, on the right hand, and on the left, but we do not perceive thee. Thou hast founded the earth by thy wisdom, and stretched out the heavens by thine understanding: by thy knowledge, the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. Thou art mighty in wisdom, wonderful in counsel, and excellent in all thy works. Holy and reverend is thy name. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Sinners cannot stand before thee; but thou regardest the humble, and showest mercy to the upright in heart. We worship thee, as the Lord God, gracious

and merciful, the God of love, and hope, and consolation; who exercisest loving kindness and benignity; delightest to make thy creatures happy, and doest good continually. But, O God, none can shew forth all thy praise; we behold the monuments of thy power; we trace the footsteps of thy wisdom, and every moment of our lives partake of the riches of thy goodness; but none can say, how great, and wise, and good thou art; none can find thee out unto perfection. Teach us continually more and more of thy greatness and glory; and engage our hearts in the study and celebration of thy perfections here below. And, at the last, may we become prepared for thy kingdom and service above; there to worship thee in a more worthy manner, and to dwell in the light of thy countenance for ever and ever.

Our Heavenly Parent, renew unto us this morning thy fatherly care and blessing. Give us grace to be faithful in our various relations and duties, whether at home or abroad. May we keep innocency, and take heed to the thing that is right. May we love one another with a pure heart fer-

vently, and our neighbour as ourselves. If difficulties await us, may we have wisdom and prudence, fortitude and patience, to meet and overcome them. In all our employments, may we set thee, O LORD, before us, and remember that thou judgest righteous judgment, and renderest unto all men according to their deeds. May we not be slothful, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May we be enabled to gain a more complete control of all our passions and affections, and to render thee a more consistent and uniform obedience. Suffer us not to be shaken in our resolutions of virtue, nor beguiled by the snares of sin. In our own abode, may quietness and harmony, health and cheerfulness, piety and love, abide. As far as in us lies, may we live peaceably with all around us, and do unto them all the kind offices of christian sympathy and charity. Make us all the charge of a kind providence; and, if consistent with thy wise and gracious purposes, bring us to the close of the day in safety and comfort, through thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ. AMEN.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD our GOD, from morning to evening, at all times, and in every place, thy name is to be praised. Worthy art thou to receive all homage, praise, and glory from every creature. Thy children delight in approaching to pour out their hearts before thee. We rejoice to be permitted to come in the exercises of devotion, and hold communion with our GOD. Manifest thyself unto our minds, O Thou ever present spirit, and help us to think of thee, and pray to thee as we ought. Our frailties and sins might justly cause us to tremble before thee; but, blessed be thy name, thou pitiest them that fear thee, and freely forgivest the penitent offender. We thank thee, O Heavenly Father, for that religion which has revealed to man thy purposes of grace concerning him; for that Saviour who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from their dominion and punishment, and confer upon us the glorious liberty of the sons of GOD. We rejoice in the declaration that there is no condemna-

tion for them that are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. O may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. May we possess the dispositions of children of God, and of faithful disciples and friends of Jesus. Grant us, most merciful Father, the promised aids of thy spirit, in our endeavours to attain the perfection after which we are taught to aspire. Cherish in us a love of what is pure, virtuous, and holy; and possess our hearts with a just abhorrence of sin, which is so hateful to thee. May we perceive more and more of the beauty and desirableness of christian virtue, and be deeply convinced that it is in that alone we can find the true happiness of our nature. Living in a world where evil so much abounds, may we put on the whole armour of God, and contend earnestly against it. May we never be ashamed or afraid to maintain the cause which our consciences approve, under any opposition; and suffer us not, O God, for the sake of any thing which the world can bestow, to give up our integrity. May we realize and

feel always that we are immortal beings, destined to another and higher state of existence, and that our condition there will be according to the characters we here form. In this infancy of our being, may we give ourselves submissively to the services which alone can prepare us for that advancement in knowledge, goodness, and happiness, that is reserved for us in the future world. Never may we be weary in well doing, but be steadfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; knowing that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Teach us, most compassionate God, how to secure our weak and wavering minds in the way of truth and virtue. In every exposure, may thy shield defend us. From the evil that is around and within us, graciously deliver us. Make the path of duty plain before us, and keep us in it, even unto the end.

Accept our grateful acknowledgments for the blessings of the day past. Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all our days. Great is thy faithfulness and loving kindness to them that trust in thee. Happy are all they whom thou lovest to

bless; and without thy blessing, none can be happy. Kindly continue to us thy care this night. Thou who never slumberest or sleepest, watch over us in our unprotected repose; and if we rise again, may it be to glorify the God of our salvation. Visit all the dwellings around us with thy heavenly benediction. Restore health where it is wanting; confirm it where it is enjoyed. Comfort any who are called to mourn. Be thou a friend to those who are desolate and afflicted. May peace and joy dwell in every heart. And may thy goodness, O God, be diffused throughout the world; and thy tender mercies be over all thy works.

We offer our prayer through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; who ever liveth, making intercession for us; through whom to thee be all glory and praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Our God and Father, we bow before thee in humble adoration. Vouchsafe to us, needy and dependent as we are, thy gracious help and blessing. Grant us more of the spirit of prayer and devotion, and let our offering of praise be accepted in thy holy presence.

Thanks be unto thee, for the protection of thy kind providence during the repose of the night past, and for the privilege of once more uniting around our domestic altar in religious worship. May a solemn impression be made upon our minds, by these successive exercises of devotion; and let not our service degenerate into a lifeless formality. Enkindle within us the pure flame of piety and benevolence, and let it burn unquenched in our minds. Aid us to conceive more worthily of thy divine nature and character. May we know thee, as thou art, in all the loveliness and glory of thy perfections. May we commune with thee, as with the friend nearest of all to us, and having the most powerful claims

to our fervent attachment. O God, help us to give thee our hearts, and to love thee as we ought. Never may the thoughts of thee be entirely absent from us. Never may we separate ourselves from thee by wilful sin. Send thy blessed spirit into our minds, and let it illumine, sanctify, and comfort us. May none of the truths thou hast taught us, be lost, or neglected, or abused. May thy truth be our acknowledged rule, counsellor, and guide, in all the pursuits of life.

Adapt the communications of thy grace, and the discipline of thy providence, O God, to our several characters and wants. Unto thee are known all our necessities, whether temporal or spiritual. Compassionate our weakness. Defend us in our peril. Direct us in our doubts. Support us in our difficulties. Deliver us from temptation, and pardon all our sins. In the midst of the darkness and perplexity of our present state of being, may we ever remember that thou art light, and with thee there is no darkness; and relying on thy power, and wisdom, and goodness, may we fear no evil for ourselves or others,

any further than is consistent with an absolute submission to thy disposal. Save us from moroseness, and an unthankful, murmuring disposition. Save us from an unguarded and intemperate enjoyment of the good things thou art pleased to bestow upon us. In the gifts of thy bounty, may we rejoice to acknowledge thy goodness; and in every comfort we daily partake, see a new proof of thine unmerited kindness. May we be cheerful, contented, and grateful; seek to diffuse happiness, and mitigate sorrow wherever we are; and diligently apply all the powers we possess, to those uses which religion and charity prescribe.

Extend thine accustomed care to us this day, in all our concerns and engagements. May we be industrious, persevering, and prudent; upright, faithful, and zealous, in the duties of our station and calling. May we act with a single purpose in all things; making it our great end to please thee, our God, and to maintain a good conscience. Purify us from all unholy desires, and all unchristian dispositions. Subdue the irregularities of our passions. Correct the

errors of our understandings, and keep both our hearts and minds in the way of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments. Thus may we glorify thy holy name; and at length attain to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

SUPREMELY great and glorious GOD! who art above all, and through all, and in us all, LORD of heaven and of earth! we admire, we revere, we bless thee. Thou art worthy to receive all glory, honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are, and were created. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Bounteous GOD, whose goodness to us began with the first moment of existence, and has followed us all our days, we have no words to express the greatness—we cannot number the sum of thy benefits. O may thine overflowing mercy fill our hearts with all the gratitude which they are capable of containing.

We thank thee for the rich variety of good which comes to us through the elements of nature, and the operations of providence. We thank thee for food and raiment, for shelter from the storm, and a covert from the heat; for the delights of home and domestic intercourse; for the pleasures of society and friendship; for all the invaluable blessings of which our parents, kindred, benefactors, and teachers, have been the occasion to us; for all the happiness we have derived through the instrumentality of our fellow beings. And, most of all, would we render praise to thee, O God, both now and ever, for spiritual blessings in heavenly things, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be unto thy holy name for the souls with which thou hast gifted us, more precious to us than worlds, partaking of thine own intelligence, and stamped with the image of thine own eternity. Glory be to thee, O God, for the light of knowledge, the means of education, and all the rich provision thou hast made to furnish our minds, and train them up to wisdom and virtue. All blessing and praise be thine, for the mercy which brought

thy dear son into the world, to redeem our souls from darkness, misery, and death; to guide thy wandering creatures into the way of truth and peace, and to recover them to the lost image and favour of God. Let not all this grace be received by us in vain. Suffer none of us to turn away from him that speaketh from heaven, or to neglect thy great salvation; but make us partakers in the redemption there is in Christ. May he dwell in our hearts by faith. May we be transformed by the renewing of our minds into the same image, and possess in all things the mind that was in him.

Let thine eye, O God, be upon us, and thy care be over us, to keep us from all danger and harm this night. Give us refreshing repose, and awaken us with the returning light, to serve thee with a more cheerful and willing obedience in all the duties of life.

All glory and praise be unto thee, our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

PARENT of all good, by whose indulgent bounty our wants are so liberally supplied, and our condition so distinguished by the number and variety of its enjoyments, excite within our hearts still higher degrees of gratitude and love to thee. Never can we sufficiently praise thee for the favours bestowed upon us. Our past ingratitude is a cause for shame and repentance. We are thoughtless, and do not consider; we are blind, and do not perceive; we are insensible, and do not feel thy goodness. Occupied in the busy cares of the world, we are prone to exclude thee from our thoughts. In the satisfactions we derive from thy gifts, we overlook the source from which they spring. Surrounded by thee, upheld by thy power, protected by thy providence, and blessed by thy love without ceasing, we yet but seldom think of thee as we ought. We are evil and unthankful in the midst of all the motives which ought to excite us to devotion and piety. O correct in us these unworthy and sinful pro-

pensities. Teach us more duly to consider the operations of thine hand; to think of all thy loving kindness; to perceive all the manifestations of thy perfections, and to meditate upon them with humble, grateful, and affectionate hearts.

O God, our Creator, Benefactor, and Father, to know thee, to love thee, to obey thee, is our highest honour, and our greatest happiness. It is this alone which confers upon us a real and essential precedence over the inferior creatures with which we inhabit the earth. It is this alone which diffuses light, and joy, and hope, and consolation, over the dark and toilsome path of our terrestrial life. It is this alone which opens to our view such prospects in the future world, as afford us the surest and most adequate support under the troubles of the present. In knowing thee, we know the source of whatever is great, whatever is good, whatever is beautiful and perfect. In loving thee, we love that being who unites in himself all which can merit our veneration, our gratitude, our affection and confidence. In obeying thee, we obey the wisest, the most righteous, the

kindest sovereign, whose laws tend solely to our good. Do thou assist us, merciful Father, always to perceive and feel this truth, and to act consistently with this perception and feeling. May we desire more earnestly to attain to greater degrees of that piety, which is thus our wisdom and happiness, and the true glory of our nature. May we strive with still increasing exactness to discharge those duties, which belong to us as thy creatures and thy children. We pray that our love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that we may be able ever to discern and to approve things excellent; that we may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God.

Receive, O our Father, the thanks which we owe thee for the common bounties of thy providence; for the safety and refreshing rest of the past night, and the cheerfulness, health, and comfort, of which we find ourselves possessed at this moment. Let the light of thy countenance be upon us, and thy protection as a wall of de-

fence round about our dwelling. Graciously aid us in those various duties, which, as human beings, as members of society, and as christians, we may be called this day to perform. Dispose us to avail ourselves of every opportunity for the exercise of the virtues which our religion enjoins. Permit us not to withhold good from any to whom it is due, when it is in the power of our hands to do it; and suffer us not in any wise to be the cause of evil. In the bosom of our family, may we cultivate the meek, gentle and affectionate temper of Christ. May we labour assiduously to promote each other's happiness. May we practise all that forbearance and tenderness which shall alleviate to one another the burdens of life; and with a cheerful contentment, may we partake of those enjoyments which are allotted to us by thee. Teach us a proper frugality, industry, and prudence. Teach us to moderate all our desires, to chasten all our hopes, to be ever mindful of our immortal destination, and to refer all our actions to thy judgment. Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual

help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name; and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

THURSDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS GOD! who hast caused the shades of darkness again to spread around us, suspending the labours of men, and inviting them to repose, we give thee thanks for this wise and merciful provision for the welfare of thy creatures. In the tranquillity which now prevails around us, in the rest and peace which have succeeded to toil and anxiety, and in the blessing of sleep, we see the delightful tokens of thy tender care. Partaking in these as in so many other of thy bountiful favours, may our hearts be drawn in gratitude toward thee, and consecrated in willing obedience to thy service.

Before we lie down this night, we would, as a family, present our united offering of prayer and praise to thee, who art the

God of our lives, the fountain of our joys, and the foundation of our hopes. Vouchsafe to us those mercies which our characters and condition peculiarly require. In this season of quietness and repose, may we commune with our own hearts, and learn what manner of persons we are and ought to be. Help us, O thou ever present witness and judge, to search and try our ways. May we impartially reflect on all the feelings, passions, words, and actions which we have allowed in ourselves this day. Assist us to prove our conduct and dispositions by the unerring precepts and perfect example of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. May we faithfully inquire whether our obedience to thy precepts, O God, has been uniform and entire; whether integrity and purity, love and kindness, humility and meekness, have been preserved in our deportment to one another, and all around us; whether we have attained any advancement in piety and virtue, in christian knowledge, faith, charity, and holiness. Help us penitently to confess all our imperfections and sins; to reflect with sorrow

on our many failings, and to seek earnestly thy forgiving mercy in Jesus Christ.

We thank thee, O Father, for the experience we have this day had of thy goodness: Thou hast again been our shield and defence, our guide and helper in the labours of our temporal calling. Thou hast spread the table for us from the stores of thy bounty, and supplied our daily wants. No fatal accident has been suffered to bereave us of our lives or faculties. No disease or calamity has seized upon us. Our friends are continued to us. Our domestic, relative, and personal blessings remain unimpaired. On every side we behold a thousand reasons for gratitude and joy. To thee, O God, we owe all our exemption from sorrow, and the various comforts and hopes we now possess. Thou hast spared us with distinguishing kindness, while many of our fellow-beings have been brought to the trial of affliction. May we rejoice with moderation, and a wise reference to the uncertainty of all earthly good; and compassionate the sorrows of others, as those who must themselves also suffer adversity. Make us tem-

perate in all our pleasures, humble in all our pursuits, and resigned in all our hopes, devoting all we have and all we hope for to the glory of God. And now, O Father, encouraged by thy past goodness, we cheerfully surrender ourselves and all our interests into thy hands. So long as it shall please thee to continue our tranquillity unbroken, our comforts undiminished, and our hopes undestroyed, we would consecrate ourselves to thee in grateful obedience of all thy commands. And when thou shalt see fit to reverse our condition, and visit us with pain of body, or distress of mind, to bereave us of friends, or to expose us to calamity, may we still look up to thee with unwavering trust, and love thee with unabated affection. Let thy will ever be our choice; thy law our delight; thy favour our chief good; and thy mercy our unfailing consolation. In prosperity or in adversity, may we pursue the path of duty without weariness, and with patient fidelity. And wilt thou, great God, be to us still a guardian and friend, and a present help in every time of need.

Grant us this night thy protection. And

in the morning, may we, with pious gratitude and mutual love, again surround thine altar, and enter with new vigour on our domestic and christian duties.

We pray for all the families around us. Wilt thou, the God of peace and love, multiply grace, mercy, and peace to them. May there be heard in every dwelling the voice of health and joy. May the spirit of the meek and lowly Saviour abide in every heart. In mutual kindnesses, and in all the expressions of unfeigned good-will, may we promote each other's happiness so far as we have power. We pray for the sick, the infirm, the aged: God be merciful unto them, and bless them. Impart the consolations of true religion to the afflicted; relieve the needy; enlighten the ignorant; reclaim the vicious. O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and establish thou the just. Bless our country in all its interests. Bless the whole family of man; and may thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O THOU whose righteousness is everlasting, and whose compassion never faileth; we adore thee as our king, our law-giver, and judge. Heaven is thy throne, and the earth thy footstool. None can resist thy power, or deny thy authority, or break thy laws with impunity. Thine eyes behold all thy creatures, at all times and in every place; and thou wilt render a reward to those who seek thee. O GOD, we would prostrate our souls in thy presence, and implore thy favour. Thy creating hand hath formed us, and thou hast upheld us in being, from the beginning of our days. Thou hast conducted us through the vicissitudes and toils of life. In thee we own our highest benefactor; and in thee we acknowledge our best friend. Except thou prosper our toil, we labour in vain. Except thou smile on our enjoyments, we cannot be happy.

O GOD, we rejoice in thee; we confide without fear in thy disposal. As thou canst never do us wrong, so we believe thou wilt never withhold from us the things

which are best for us. If we sin, with thee there is forgiveness for the penitent offender. If we obey, with thee there is a reward for the obedient. Nothing, O God, we are assured, can ever make us truly miserable, but our own conduct and dispositions. The pure heart shall be blessed of thee. The path of uprightness shall lead us to certain and everlasting felicity. No creature can divide us from our creator: no earthly evil can deprive us of heavenly good. O may we then wash our hands in innocency, and purify our hearts from every thing which defileth. May we love thee, most merciful Father, with increasing devotion, and be bound inseparably to thy service. Let no delusion corrupt our imagination; let no false views of happiness beguile our desires; let no sin attract us; let no temptation overpower us. May we be filled with the knowledge of thy will, and walk worthy of the Lord in every relation and engagement of life. Enlarge our conceptions of thy perfect nature and character. Show us, O God! thy glory. Make us sensible how great and good a being we serve; and attach our affections

to thyself, by all that we see in the universe of thy wisdom, power, and love ; and all which we daily experience of thy tender care and unceasing bounty. May we reverence the dictates of conscience as thy voice speaking within us. May we receive with meekness the truths of thy revealed word; and keep them ever before us, that we may not sin against thee. Quicken us, O God, according to thy word. Make us alive to thee, earnest in every good work, and zealous for the attainment of every excellence. May we be blameless, vigilant, sober, patient, sincere in all our words, faithful in all our engagements, not self-willed, nor soon angry. May we guide all our affairs irreproachably, provide things honest in the sight of all men, and as much as in us lies live peaceably with all. Fill us with a warm and active charity. May we not be covetous, but devise liberal things. Enlarge our opportunities of usefulness, and dispose us to improve all the means we possess of doing good. May we perform diligently whatsoever thou hast appointed us to do, knowing that the night of death soon cometh, in which no man

can work. For that solemn event wilt thou prepare us. Save us, O God, from the folly and guilt of confining our thoughts and affections to the fleeting enjoyments and pursuits of the present world; and grant that when all the ties which bind us here are dissolved, we may be received to that enduring inheritance, which thou hast reserved in heaven for them that love thee. May we learn and practise now all those lessons of christian piety and benevolence, which will not only make us happy while we live, but give us hope in death, and finally introduce us to the abode of everlasting joy and love. To that end wilt thou bring us, and all who are near and dear to us. And may all mankind be brought to the faith and hope of Christ, and partake in the eternal redemption which he hath obtained for us.

These our petitions, we present as the disciples of Jesus; through whom to thee, who art God over all, be endless blessing. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD! the high and holy one, whose glory is above the earth and heavens, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, let thy name be praised. We adore thee as our creator, and we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We adore thee as our preserver, and acknowledge with joy the care thou hast taken of us. We were early cast upon thy mercy, and thou, Lord, hast never forsaken us. We adore thee as the GOD of our salvation; who hast sent thy Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. When there was no eye to pity, and no arm that could save, thou didst look with pity on a world lying in darkness, sin, and death, and thine arm brought deliverance. Blessed be thy name, that the Saviour thou hast provided for us is able to save even to the uttermost; that in the gospel we profess, we have all that instruction and all that encouragement which our ignorant and feeble minds may require. There we are taught that

thou art love ; that thou wouldst not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. There life and immortality are brought to light; pardon promised, and happiness, without end or intermission, revealed, as the portion of them that love thee. We thank thee, O God, that thou didst impart thy holy spirit without measure to thy Son, and bear witness to him by miracles and signs from heaven. We adore thy mighty power, which enabled him to give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, soundness to the maimed, and life to the dead. We thank thee for that piety and benevolence which marked his whole character, and shone forth with surpassing brightness in the last acts of his life, and in his death upon the cross. We bless thee for his triumphant resurrection from the grave, and glorious ascension to heaven, where he is now at the right hand of the majesty on high. O God, may we count all things but loss, in comparison of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. May the hopes which, as christians, we enjoy, inspire us with a devout ardour in thy service ; and may our gratitude for

thine infinite mercy, as manifested in the redemption of the world, be as great as our hearts are capable of feeling. Form us to a nearer resemblance to thyself. May we become in our humble measure partakers of a divine nature. May we learn yet more of thy wisdom and goodness; and increasing in knowledge, may we increase also in admiration and love of all thy perfections. May we earnestly contemplate the character of Jesus, who, though he was rich, for our sakes became poor; and, to serve our eternal interests, humbled himself unto death, even the death of the cross. Inspire us with a holy desire to render the only returns we can make for his goodness, by doing good to others, and keeping all his precepts. May we have the joy of a conscious resemblance to him, and of adorning the doctrine he hath left us, by lives of spotless purity and evangelical devotion.

Forgive us, O God, that we possess so little of the mind that was in Christ. Forgive us our many imperfections and sins. Forgive us if we have this day left any thing undone, which it was our duty to do, or

done that which we ought not to have done. Accept our grateful acknowledgments for the favours of the day; for our reason, health, domestic comforts, and social enjoyments, for our daily bread, safety, and peace. Prosper the endeavours we have used in our lawful pursuits of a temporal nature; but especially succeed all our efforts in the cause of truth and piety, of our own improvement, and the welfare of others. May we never be weary in well-doing. And wilt thou, who seest not as man seeth, purify our hearts from every corrupt motive and evil bias, that so our services may become more worthy thy divine acceptance.

Let thy power defend us this night, and thy goodness bless our repose; and if we shall arise again to behold the day, may it be with hearts full of gratitude to thee.

And now, through him who loved us, and gave himself for us, we would ascribe all glory and praise to thee for ever. AMEN.

SATURDAY MORNING.

We look up unto thee, O God, the eternal source of wisdom and purity, the fountain of our joys, and the foundation of our hopes, beseeching thee to enlighten our minds, to sanctify our hearts, and to grant us thy gracious blessing and guidance in all our ways. What we know not, wilt thou teach us. May we have worthy apprehensions of thy nature and providence, and a right understanding of that religion which is taught us in the gospel of thy Son. May our hearts be endued with every pious and virtuous disposition; and under the influence of thy heavenly truth, may we correct all that is amiss, and each day increase in all goodness.

We render thee our humble praises for the many advantages and comforts of that condition in which thou hast placed us. We thank thee that we live in a land of freedom and knowledge, in a civilized and christian community, under a good government and equitable laws. We bless thee for the peace and tranquillity, the

health and happiness, which are still found within our dwelling. We acknowledge thine unspeakable goodness, in forming us capable of the delights of domestic life, and for all those blessings of which the relations that bind us to each other are the source. O God, may our hearts meet in thee, as in our first and best friend; and let thy blessing consecrate all our earthly connexions. Teach us how we may most effectually promote each other's true interest, and dispose us to love one another with a pure heart fervently. May no bitter or resentful passions ever find place in our breasts. May no discontent or envy rise up there. May no undue concern for the transitory objects of this world, divide our hearts from thee, or hinder us from attaining that happiness which is the true end of our being. When doubts perplex, or anxieties oppress our minds, wilt thou relieve and comfort us. Permit us not to be seduced by any temptation from the path of rectitude, nor to yield to influences, however powerful, which would deprive us of a clear conscience, and the approbation of our God.

This day may thy unfailing bounty supply our various necessities. Prosper, so far as is for our spiritual good, the labours of a temporal nature in which we are about to engage. Keep us unspotted from the world; and under all circumstances, assist us to maintain a serene, humble, and grateful spirit. Frequently may our thoughts ascend to thee, our ever-present witness and judge, and may we constantly refer all our actions to thy word, and be governed in all by a supreme desire to please thee. Permit us not to be satisfied with a low degree of goodness, but may we aspire with increasing ardour after the highest virtue which is possible to human frailty, and go on even unto perfection. Great God! be thou ever with us, and let thy spirit help our infirmities. Conscious how often we have failed to accomplish the good we have intended, and fallen into the evil which we thought to have escaped, may we not lean to our own understandings, nor rely on our own unassisted strength; but may our confidence be in thy mercy, and our reliance on thy grace. Do thou confirm and strengthen our holy resolu-

tions; fortify us to meet temptation; and cause us to come off more than conquerors, through him who loved us and gave himself for us; who was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.

We commend to thee, O God, our relatives and friends who are absent from us. We ask thy compassion for the distressed, thy mercy for the erring and guilty, thy blessing upon all men. Favour the labours of benevolence. Promote the cause of knowledge in the earth. Extend the christian religion to all nations; and may the spirit of the Prince of peace subdue the angry and revengeful passions, from which proceed wars and fightings among men. Let the divisions which exist be healed; and may the world be filled with divine glory and human happiness.

Our Father in heaven, accept our devotions in great mercy, through thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O THOU who alone art from everlasting, without beginning of days, or end of years, whose counsel standeth fast, and whose thoughts extend to all generations, we adore and praise thee. Amid the continual vicissitudes of an uncertain life, it is our joy and consolation, that thou, O GOD, changest not. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but thou remainest. All that we have trusted and loved beside thee, shall fail and be removed; but thou never failest them that trust in thee; and from them that love thee, thy face is never hid—thy favour never withdrawn.

At the close of another week, we feel that it becomes us to renew those salutary convictions of the transitoriness of present objects, and the vanity of present pursuits, which shall serve to moderate our passions and desires, and to prepare us for that period, when we must go hence to be no more seen on the earth—to take no more interest in all that is done under the sun. Eternal GOD! impress these convictions

upon us, and correct every propensity within us, which might lead us to prefer present transitory good, to that which is future and everlasting. We would look back on the week that is now ending, with gratitude for the multiplied favours with which thou hast crowned each day as it passed. Our obligations to thee, O God, are more than we are able to conceive. How precious have been thy thoughts towards us; how great is the sum of them! Accept our fervent thanks that thou hast continued our being, our health, our reason and intellectual faculties, our social affections and moral powers; that it hath pleased thee to spare our family from calamitous visitations of providence, and to grant to each member of it thy protection and blessing. If we have done or acquired any good, if we have been the means of increasing the virtue and happiness of others, or have advanced our own, we render all the praise and glory to thy name. But we have reason to lament before thee, for many failings and imperfections. With humility and penitence, would we recollect our errors and sins, our unprofitableness and ingrati-

tude, our evil thoughts, affections, words, and deeds. Merciful God, from thee we cannot hide our sins, nor would we seek to do it. We acknowledge and confess our unworthiness, and most humbly beseech thee to pardon and accept us. Help us to learn those lessons of wisdom and piety, which our past experience teaches us; and knowing our danger, may we in future take more careful heed to our steps, and walk more uprightly before thee. Quicken our consciences. Sanctify our hearts. Make us more pure, humble, and devout; more meek, benevolent, and kind; more sincere and inoffensive; more exemplary and useful. If we shall behold another of the days of the Son of man, may it be in a state of preparation for its sacred employments. And, as he was raised by the power of God, and dieth no more, so may we, being dead to sin, rise to newness of life, and seek those things which are above.

Shepherd of Israel, who never slumberest, keep us this night from every evil. May we retire to rest in tranquillity, and sleep unmolested. Let thy guardian care attend us all our days. And when we shall

be called to leave the world, and lie down to rise up no more, support us in our departing moments by thy presence, and grant us the consolations of a hope full of immortality.

Our God and Father, may the religion which alone can confer these unspeakable consolations, be made known to all thy children. Send to those who now sorrow as without hope, the glad tidings of salvation. Have mercy on the nations which know thee not; and grant that the time may come, in which every knee shall bow to Jesus, and every tongue confess that he is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Accept these our devotions through thine infinite mercy; and unto thee, the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, be all glory and praise for ever. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Our Father in heaven, the author and preserver of our days, our bountiful benefactor, and unerring guide, we implore thy blessing with the return of this holy day. We would worship thee who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and fountains of water; who spake, and it was done; who commanded, and it stood fast; who said, let there be light, and there was light. We would adore thee, who, from the beginning, hast declared by the things which are made, thine eternal power and godhead. The heavens proclaim thy glory, and the firmament showeth thy handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge concerning thee. We would praise thee, who through all times and changes hast preserved thy name in the earth, but especially hast revealed thyself to us by thy Son Jesus Christ; who hast in his gospel brought life and immortality to light; hast redeemed us from our sins, and made us capable of everlasting felicity at thy right

hand. We bless thee who hast sent thy Son to die for us, and hast raised him from the dead, as the forerunner and pledge of our resurrection. We glorify thee who hast established and preserved a church in the world, and hast promised to continue and enlarge it through all generations, till the knowledge of thy truth shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the deep. We bless thee that thou hast bestowed on us the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the ordinances of his religion; and that there is a day set apart for our more immediate attention to thy worship, and the concerns of our souls. O God, we thank thee that thou hast brought us to this day. We rejoice in its light. We rejoice in the privileges and promises of which it reminds us; and we entreat thee to enable us to keep it holy, and ever to devote it to those purposes for which thou hast appointed it.

We thank thee, Heavenly Father, for thy care of us through the past night. Thou hast suffered no evil to happen to us, but hast refreshed us with sleep, and restored us to new activity and vigour. Teach us gratitude by thy benefits; teach us wisdom

by thy providences; and instil into our hearts those principles of faith and trust in thee, and of a willing obedience to all thy commands, that in contentment and godly sincerity we may walk before thee all the days of our lives.

Merciful Father, assist us justly to estimate the vanities of the world, and the infinite importance of the concerns of eternity. O God, enable us to lay hold of the things which belong to our everlasting peace, before they are for ever hidden from our eyes. Purify and exalt our affections; renew our hearts; subdue within us every unworthy desire, and banish all inordinate cares. Make us to love thee supremely; to seek first thy kingdom and its righteousness. Dispose us to deny ourselves; to overrule our selfish inclinations; to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before thee. May we study the example of our blessed Redeemer, and be animated by those principles of devotion to thy will, of humility, patience, submission, and fortitude, of love to thee, and usefulness to man, of which he set us the example that we should follow his steps.

Go with those of us, O Lord, who shall enter into thy courts this day, and enable us to worship thee, who art a spirit, in spirit and in truth. May we take heed how we hear, remembering that for these opportunities of knowing and of serving thee, thou wilt one day call us to account. May we find it good for us to draw nigh to thee; and prepare us by thy service here for nearer approaches, and a more perfect service in thy kingdom above.

Our Father, who art in heaven, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Our Father, who art in heaven, we would approach thee with the affection and confidence of children. Though thou art far exalted above our conceptions, though we cannot comprehend thee in thy power, in thy wisdom and excellency, yet we feel that we are daily and hourly the objects of thy merciful providence—that we are every moment supported by thine unremitting care. We know that thou art the rewarder of those, however weak and imperfect,

who diligently seek thee. Prepare our hearts to seek thee aright, and enable us to worship thee in spirit and in truth.

We would humble ourselves before thee, O God most holy, acknowledging our offences and our great unworthiness. We lament so many blessings as thou hast favoured us with, misimproved; so many opportunities of usefulness, neglected. We lament our devotion to the world, and our forgetfulness of thee, our ingratitude and selfishness. O God most merciful, who hast given thy Son to die for us, and wouldst not that any should perish, but that all should come to everlasting life; forgive us, we beseech thee, all our sins, and endue us with the grace of thy holy spirit, to amend our lives according to thy holy word. Send down thy spirit upon us, as thou art wont upon all who call upon thee in faith; and grant us wisdom and strength to resist the evil propensities of our own nature, and the temptations which surround us. Repress within us every impure and inordinate desire. Stimulate us to greater exertions in our christian warfare, and make us to come off conquerors, and more

than conquerors, through the faith that is in Christ. Teach us all thy will; and fit us, by meekness and purity, by holy conversation and godliness, to receive the blessings which are prepared for those who love thee; which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and which it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive.

And, O Lord, while we rejoice in thy promises, in that glory which thou hast revealed as the portion of all who faithfully serve thee, we would offer our petitions for all those who are yet ignorant or neglectful of this great salvation. Publish thy gospel of peace in every land, and sanctify every heart by the influences of its spirit. We commend to thy care all our relations, benefactors, friends, and neighbours. May those who are connected with us by the ties of nature, of kindness, or affection, be endued with every grace, and enriched by every blessing. Forgive our enemies, and turn their hearts. Regard with compassion the sick, the afflicted, and the dying; relieve and comfort them as their circumstances may require. [And, O God, in this inclement season, shelter and supply the

destitute, and let none want the comforts we so liberally enjoy.] [O Thou who causest the stormy wind and tempest to arise, protect all who are exposed, and be with those who go down to the sea in ships, and see thy wonders on the great waters, and grant that they may reach their desired haven in safety.]

Merciful Father, we would gratefully acknowledge thy loving kindness in all the blessings thou daily bestowest upon us. Thou hast given us life, and breath, and all things. From thee we have received the good gifts which have crowned our lot; and on thee is founded every hope of the future. We cannot feel sufficiently sensible of thy bounties, nor make thee any adequate return. Give us grace to be thankful for them, and to improve them to our everlasting welfare.

O God, who makest the sun to know his going down, cause us to adore thy goodness in this gracious appointment. Thou drawest around us the canopy of darkness, and solicitest nature to repose. Under the influences of sleep, the sorrows, the cares, and toils of man are alleviated and forgot-

ten; and even the dominion of the passions is broken. In these hours of stillness, when the world and its pursuits are shut out from our view, and we are left to be alone with thee, O teach us to realize our relations with that world, whither we are hastening, which is unseen and eternal. Acquaint us with thee, and with our own hearts. Teach us to realize our immortal destinies, and make us sensible what manner of persons we ought to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

We now commit ourselves, O our heavenly Father, to thy care this night. Watch over us, and defend us from all harm. Prepare us for all the duties and events of life; and when we come to the dark valley of the shadow of death, be thou our guide and comforter, and bring us to the regions of endless day.

We ask and offer all in the name and as the disciples of Jesus Christ; and through him we would ascribe unto thee everlasting praise. AMEN.

A MORNING PRAYER,

FOR ANY DAY IN THE WEEK.

WITH the return of another morning, we would assemble around our family altar, and offer unto thee, O GOD, the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving. Enable us to draw near to thee with grateful hearts, in the remembrance of that kind providence which hath guarded us in the night season; hath given us undisturbed repose, nd awakened us with the returning light. Make us sensible that it is only by thy sustaining hand, that we have risen up again and partaken of thy bounty. Impress upon our hearts a sense of our entire dependence on thee for each moment of our lives ; for without thee, we must sink into darkness and the grave. Dispose us to see and acknowledge thee in our daily blessings, in the supply of our returning wants, in the enjoyment of health and social intercourse, in the privileges, promises, and consolations of religion; and may we live no longer to ourselves, but to thee, and to those whom thou hast redeemed by the death of thy Son.

We would now, O Lord, devote ourselves to thy service. May we know no will but thy will; have no fear so great as the fear of thy displeasure; no affection so strong as our love for thee: and in humility and godly sincerity may we walk before thee all the days of our lives.

O Thou who causest the day-spring to arise, and light to shine out of darkness, shine into our hearts. What is dark, illumine; what is low, raise and sustain. Dispel all evil thoughts and corrupt affections; strengthen and confirm all our good resolutions. May we live as remembering that we are immortal; and continually and ardently press forward to that purity and perfection of character, of which our Saviour hath exhibited the example, that we should follow his steps. And thus may every day of our short time on earth, bring us one day nearer to a blessed eternity.

But thou who knowest our infirmities, and our many temptations, do thou give us the aids of thy spirit in proportion to our needs. Suffer us not to rely on our own strength; for without thee, we can do nothing. And, O merciful Father, cleanse

us from our secret faults. Keep back thy servants also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the dominion over us. Forgive all our transgressions, and remember our iniquities no more.

Guide and protect us this day on which we have entered. Make us faithful and diligent in our several callings, knowing whom we serve; and bring us to the evening in safety and peace. Graciously supply all our wants, and suffer not the cares and business of the world to exclude entirely the thoughts of thee. May we be mindful that thine eye seeth us. Give us true humility and a quiet spirit; a friendly, holy, and useful conversation. Make us always ready to bear each other's burdens, and to deny ourselves—studying to benefit others, and to please thee in all things. May we be gentle and easy to be entreated, slow to anger, and fully instructed and readily prepared for every good work, but inflexible to evil. Give us pure and holy thoughts, just dispositions, and an active industry to redeem the time misspent. And, O God, reward us not according to our iniquities, but sanctify our souls and bo-

dies in this life, and glorify them hereafter, through thy mercy in Jesus Christ.

[Thou who art the confidence of the ends of the earth, make us to confide in thee. By all the dispensations of thy providence, however afflictive, increase our trust in thee. Make us to know that every thing worketh together for good to those who love thee. Give us an humble and devout reliance on thy fatherly care. Defend us from all evil, and conduct us by the waters of comfort, and in the ways of righteousness, to thine eternal kingdom.]

Hear us, O God, in these our petitions; and accept us, through thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

AN EVENING PRAYER, FOR ANY DAY IN THE WEEK.

Most holy, blessed, and glorious Lord God, whose we are, and whom we are bound to serve, unto thee would we lift up our souls. With a deep sense of our unworthiness in thy sight, conscious of the deficiencies of our best services, and mindful

of many transgressions, we would humble ourselves before thee. O God, merciful and gracious, turn not away from us, but forgive our sins, and heal our infirmities. Cast us not away from thy presence. O take not thy holy spirit from us; but lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace.

We entreat thee, O God, to create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Make the way of our duty plain before us, and may thy law be a lamp to our feet, and a light to our paths. Suffer us not to become the victims of our passions and appetites, but give us the rule over our own spirits. Enable us to subdue all envy, hatred, malice, and uncharitableness—all our inordinate desires and affections—and purify us, as thou, Lord, art pure. May we not rest satisfied with our present poor attainments, but make us to aspire after a more ardent devotion, a more extended benevolence, and a more complete subjugation of our passions. Make us to abound in every christian grace and virtue—in piety, in humility, patience, brotherly-kindness, and charity.

May we be content in whatever situation thou shalt see fit to place us; and by all that thou shalt call us to do and to suffer here, prepare us for the enjoyment of thee in thy kingdom above.

We would remember before thee all for whom we ought to pray. May the sun of righteousness arise, with healing in his beams, and bring light and warmth to those who are sitting in darkness and insensibility, and penetrate every heart to the ends of the earth. [May our rulers rule in thy fear. Give them wisdom to discern, and integrity to pursue the best interests of those over whom they are appointed to govern for good.] Bless all our friends, relatives, and neighbours. Thou knowest their wants, and wilt thou bless them in all their concerns; but whatever thou deniest them, deny them not an interest in thy favour. Have compassion on the sick, the needy, and afflicted, and relieve them according to their necessities, and thine own great goodness.

We would join in ascribing to thee, O Lord, all praise and thanksgiving for the blessings we enjoy. Bless the Lord, O

our souls, and all that is within us, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all our iniquities, who healeth all our diseases, who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies. The outgoings of the morning and of the evening praise thee, and we will rejoice in the operations of thy hand. Strengthen our confidence in thee, and teach us, in all that befalls us, to adore thine over-ruling providence;—in afflictions, detaching us from the world and its perishable objects—in all our enjoyments, inciting us to gratitude, devotion, and love. Even in thy judgments thou rememberest mercy. Enable us to declare thy praise by a life devoted to thy service.

Protect us this night, and give us refreshing sleep. Thou who never slumberest nor sleepest, guard us in our slumbers from all harm and disturbance, and awaken us in the morning with renovated vigour for thy service. Prepare us for every event of life. Prepare us for death; and when we come to make the grave our bed,

may we be able to look forward with joyful hope to the morning of the resurrection, when the Son of man shall appear in power and great glory, and this corruptible having put on incorruption, and this mortal, immortality, we may arise to reign with him in thy kingdom for ever.

Hear us, O God, in heaven thy dwelling place, and when thou hearest, answer and forgive, through thy mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

ON PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.

1. ON THE BIRTH OF A CHILD.

O Thou Lord and giver of life, we would look up unto thee with joy and thankfulness, for the recent expression of thy goodness in the birth of a child. Blessed be God that the mother survives her peril. May her heart be filled with pious gratitude and trust towards the God of her salvation; and disposed to devote herself and the child thou hast given, to thy service and glory, so long as they both shall live. Confirm unto thy servant the mercy thou hast begun, and in due time grant that she may be recovered to health, and return again to the duties and happiness of her family. And wilt thou, O God, who alone knowest the end from the beginning, mercifully order all events concerning this child. May its life be precious in thy sight. May it be saved from

all calamity, as far as is consistent with thy holy purposes. Give wisdom and grace to those who may be intrusted with the care and nurture of its early years. Let its mind and heart be protected from all evil influences. May it grow up in the fear of God, and in the faith and hopes of a christian. And finally, when its trial on earth is finished, may it be received to the society of the blessed in heaven, to the joy and peace of thine eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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2. ON RECOVERY OF A MEMBER OF A FAMILY FROM SICKNESS.

O Thou who art the health of our countenance, our strength and our redeemer, we desire gratefully to remember thy mercy to thy servant, whom thou hast raised up from a bed of sickness, and caused once more to return to the enjoyments of life. May thy preserving goodness deeply impress his heart, and have an abiding influence on his future conduct. Since thou hast spared him from going down to the

grave, O Lord, wilt thou give him a desire to devote himself unreservedly to thee. May the good purposes formed in the season of trouble, be continued in the day of rejoicing, and produce the fruits of piety and virtue through all the remainder of his abode on earth. May the experience he has had of thy great faithfulness and tender mercy, create in him a filial trust and confidence in thee, which no future trial shall be able to overcome. Crown this and every favour of thy providence with those spiritual blessings, without which all our enjoyments are empty and unavailing. Let the conviction of our constant liability to sickness and death, moderate all our desires, and dispose us to elevate our hearts above things seen, and temporal, and timely to secure a part in the joys of thy kingdom, where pain and distress, sin and death, shall no more be known. Hear us, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

3. IN CASE OF SICKNESS.

O MOST merciful GOD and Father, look with pity, we beseech thee, on thy servant whom thou hast been pleased to visit with sickness. Give him patience to endure his pains, and a tranquil acquiescence in thy holy will. From the bed of languishing and distress, may his thoughts ascend to thee; and wilt thou impart comfort and hope to his heart, and put underneath him thine everlasting arms. So long as this malady shall confine him, may it be a mean of spiritual benefit to thy suffering servant, and to those who are called to minister to him, and are anxious for his recovery. And, O thou great and good GOD, who alone canst discern what is best for thy creatures, in humble submission we would implore a speedy deliverance from this affliction. Let not this disease touch the life of our beloved friend, but grant healing mercy to accompany our efforts for his restoration. Spare him, O GOD, to be yet a great while a blessing to us, and to the world. Cut him not off in the midst of his days; but

may he be raised to perfect health, and become in thine hands an instrument of extensive usefulness, while he shall partake in the riches of thy goodness. Nevertheless, not our will, but thine be done. We feel, O God, how weak and helpless we are of ourselves. We know that thou alone canst accomplish our desires. Bless the means we shall use, and grant a happy event; or prepare us and thy sick servant for the reverse. In all which thou mayest appoint to us, may we believe the rectitude and wisdom of thy providence, and be enabled by thy gracious help, to bow without a murmur to thy sovereign will. O God, our hope and trust are in thee. Let our supplication obtain an answer of peace, through thy mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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4. WHEN LIFE IS IN IMMEDIATE PERIL, AND THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF RECOVERY.

Compassionate God! we flee to thee for succour in an hour of bitterness and distress. Hide not thy face from us, but have

mercy upon us, and appear for our relief. With thee, nothing is impossible. Thou canst restore even from the borders of the grave. O Lord, we are oppressed—undertake for us. Shew mercy to thy servant, whom thou hast brought very low. Speak thou the word, and he shall live. Spare him, Father of mercies, and let not the evil which we fear come upon us. Into thy hands we commit him. Thou carest for him, and canst deliver him. We believe in thy wise and kind providence. We know thou wilt make all things work together for good, to them that love thee. We rely on thy faithfulness. Compose our agitated minds. Give peace to our troubled hearts. Comfort us in our sorrows, and prepare us for thy holy will. Enable us to maintain our fortitude under every burden. O let not our remembrance of thy past goodness be lost in our present sufferings. Thy chastening hand is upon us; but it is still the hand of a Father. Blessed God, we desire not to distrust thee; we pray to be preserved from complaining against thee. Draw near to us in our distress, and may we so feel thy pre-

sence as to be comforted thereby. And wilt thou, who knowest all his condition, be tender and mercifully near to thy sick servant, for whom our fears are awakened. If the sorrows of death encompass him, and it indeed be that he shall rise up no more, may he realize his danger, and be fortified to meet it. Pardon all the sins of his past life. Deliver him from all upbraiding reflections, and from the dread of death, by enabling him to put his trust in the Saviour of sinners; who hath abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light. May he lay hold on the hope set before him in Christ Jesus, as an anchor of his soul. May he confide with unshaken faith in the promised mercy of his Creator and his God. And may he have a peaceful departure from this world of suffering, and be received to the rest laid up in heaven for those who die in the Lord. Amen.

5. FOR A SICK CHILD.

O THOU who knowest the heart of man, and art acquainted with all our griefs, we look up to thee in behalf of the sick child for whom we seek deliverance. Gracious Parent! let thy long-suffering goodness pardon us, if in aught we are too anxious; but we most earnestly beseech thee to remove thine afflicting hand. Destroy not the fond hopes which thou hast permitted us to cherish. Take not away from us this precious object of our affections; but grant, O GOD, that this child may live to be the comfort and support of its parents in their advancing years, and a blessing to the world in its day and generation. Yet let not thy servants desire what it seemeth good to thee to deny. Thou gavest—thou hast a right to resume thy gift. Nor wilt thou exercise thy right in anger, but in tenderness and love. May thy will be done. We yield to thee both this and all the objects which our hearts hold dear; assured that thou art dealing with us, as a father with the children in whom he delighteth,

and that hereafter we shall discover the rectitude and goodness of all thy dispensations. If it shall be thy determination that the child shall sink under this disease, and be removed from us by death, give us strength, O God, to bear this grief as becometh christians. Possess our souls with a pious resignation. Quiet our distressed minds. Bind up our bleeding hearts; and may this deep affliction work out for us a far more exceeding, even an eternal weight of glory. Amen.

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6. PRAYER TO BE USED ON THE DEATH OF EITHER PARENT, BY THE SURVIVOR, WITH THE FAMILY.

Almighty and everlasting God! in whose hand our breath is, and at whose command man returneth to the dust, we adore thy holy providence in the mournful event which has removed from these children a beloved parent, and from this family one of its precious supports. With afflicted and humbled hearts we seek thee. O let thy tender mercy be for our encouragement and con-

solation. Unsearchable as are thy judgments, yet we believe that wisdom and goodness appoint them all. We would be still, and know that thou art God—higher than the highest, by thy divine compassion as by thine infinite power. Thy thoughts are not as our thoughts. Our feeble minds are unable to scan thy dealings, nor would we dare or wish to do so. Pour into our troubled hearts the consolations of thy spirit; bind up the wounds thou hast made; and, O Father, teach us to turn this bitter sorrow to our eternal good. Forlorn and desolate as are these children, O may they find in thee a parent and a friend. May they make thee the guide of their youth. May their hearts be given to their Creator, before sin has corrupted them. And may the loss of the tender care and faithful counsels of their departed parent, be made up to them by the loving-kindness of their Father in heaven. God of all mercy, shed down thy blessings upon them. Lead them in the ways of piety and virtue; preserve them from the cares and sorrows of an evil world; make them to be numbered with thy children here, by faith in Jesus

Christ, and receive them hereafter to the inheritance of thy saints in glory. And may this afflictive event be sanctified to all this family. Let the rupture of those tender ties which bind us to the world, serve as an admonition—bidding us to beware of placing our affections too strongly on things below, and calling upon us to be ourselves also ready for the time of our departure. May we learn how frail we are—how uncertain a thing our life is, and the infinite importance of seeking by a timely discharge of every duty, for that peace which can never be taken from us.

We would mingle thanks with our supplications and mourning, and bless thee, O God, that it has been permitted us so long to share with our dear departed relative, the pleasures and hopes of existence. We would thank thee for all the good of which he was the instrument to his family and friends; for the benefits of his good example, and affectionate sympathy. And most fervently would we praise thy name for that consolation which abounds by Jesus Christ to all who suffer tribulation; for the cheering promises of a resurrection from

the grave, and of future rest and everlasting glory, to those who look for his appearing. Supported by thy word, may we commit ourselves to thy care, and be mercifully guarded, sustained, and blessed, through the remainder of our earthly pilgrimage; and at its close, wilt thou receive us all to thyself, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN.

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7. UPON THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

O GOD! our merciful Father, we desire meekly to bow beneath thy chastening hand. Thou gavest—thou hast taken away; blessed be thy holy name. In this season of bitterness, disappointment and wo, leave not thy children, we beseech thee—forsake us not utterly. Thou woundest, and thine hands make whole. Thou bindest up the broken heart, and pitiest the sorrows of them that fear thee. Fulfil to us, thine afflicted servants, the promises of thy word. Grant us strength to bear the burden thou hast laid upon us. Help us silently to acquiesce in that bereavement which has de-

stroyed our hopes. Suffer us not to faint under thy rebuke. Let not our faith fail, nor our fortitude be overcome, nor our patience depart from us. Enlighten the darkness which covers us, by the consoling truths of our religion. Send thy holy spirit to abide with and comfort our hearts. While distressed by the remembrance of the joys of which thou hast been pleased to bereave us, may we not forget that from thee we received them all. Teach us to see and feel that thou art alike wise and kind when thou bestowest, and when thou resumest thy gifts. Let no complaining thoughts arise in our minds. Let no murmuring word escape our lips. Unto thee we resign the beloved object of our regrets; assured that though lost to us, he still lives to thee, in the hope of a joyful resurrection at the last day. May we endure tribulation as becometh thy children, and the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Help us, Holy Father, to imitate the submission and patience of our Redeemer, who for us, endured agony, and shame, and death. Fortify our minds; tranquilize our hearts; and enable us to convert this sore

trial, into a mean of spiritual and eternal good. Bind more closely to one another, the surviving members of this family. Increase in us a tender and faithful affection. Teach us how we may best promote each other's happiness, and mitigate the sorrows which have befallen, or yet await us. May we have one heart and one mind. Let thy mercy spare us to one another. While permitted to live in the endearing connexion which now unites us, may we be mutual blessings; and when at last death shall divide us from all the ties of this world, may we be received to the abode of endless peace and uninterrupted joy—into the society of pure and perfect spirits in thy heavenly kingdom. AMEN.

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8. ON THE DEATH OF ANY RELATIVE OR FRIEND.

O GOD! the gracious and sovereign disposer of all events, we acknowledge thy holy providence in the death of our lamented friend. May this visitation of thy correcting hand be sanctified to us, and all

who suffer by it. We bow with submission to thy will, knowing that thou chastenest every child whom thou receivest, and layest affliction on those whom thou lovest. By all our trials may we be purified from sin, quickened in duty, mortified in our earthly desires, and raised above the world. Make us more and more to partake in thy holiness; and may each successive bereavement we are called to sustain, be a mean of preparing our own souls for their departure, and of increasing our aspirations toward that blessed state, where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes—where there shall be no more pain, sickness, nor death—which sin cannot invade, nor sorrow molest. Enable us, under the loss of friends and relatives, and the endeared objects of affection and hope, to remember that thou livest, and wilt never forsake us; and that as thou hast appointed unto all men once to die, so after death will be a joyful resurrection, when they who sleep in Jesus shall awake to everlasting life, and christian friends shall meet again to separate no more. AMEN.

9. IN TIME OF GENERAL SICKNESS.

O God, who hast in thy holy providence sent grievous and mortal sickness among us, we humble ourselves with fear and trembling before thee. Spare us, O God, we beseech thee, from this heavy judgment. Stay the progress of disease, and save us from going down to the grave. Show thy pity to those who have already been visited with this distressing sickness, and mercifully support them in their affliction. Grant a blessing to attend the means used to prevent the spreading of contagion. Grant healing mercy. Where health yet remains may it be preserved, and soon may we rejoice in a general recovery. And may these awful admonitions of thy providence not be without effect on the hearts of men. May vice and iniquity, presumption and pride, irreligion and profanity, be rebuked; and may the truths of the gospel be more worthily received and more faithfully practised. To thy compassion we commend ourselves, and all around us; praying that

we may be prepared for whatever thou shalt appoint for us; and whether we live or die, be accepted of thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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10. ON DELIVERANCE FROM GENERAL SICKNESS.

O MOST compassionate GOD! we desire to bless thee that thou hast redeemed our lives from destruction, and not suffered the pestilence which hath prevailed on every side, to come nigh us to our hurt. In the midst of judgment thou rememberest mercy; and we would offer unto thy fatherly goodness, ourselves, our souls and bodies which thou hast delivered, to be a living sacrifice to thee. May the late heavy and dreadful visitation be attended with the sanctifying influences of thy holy spirit; and may we be long spared to rejoice in thee, who art the health of our countenance and our GOD. AMEN.

11. AFTER A JOURNEY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who art always alike near to us, in the house or by the way, at home or abroad, protecting, guiding, and supporting us, we present to thee our fervent thanks for the safe and happy return of thy servants who have been absent from us. We feel that it is because thou hast been our help and preserver, that we meet again. Blessed be thy name for all the comfort and satisfaction which is occasioned by the termination of this journey, as well as for the health, peace, and security enjoyed in its progress. May these instances of divine care and mercy become to us new motives to a pious confidence in GOD, and to an uniform obedience to the laws of piety and virtue. Reminded by these temporary separations of that time, when we must be separated to meet no more below, may we be induced to prepare our hearts for the dissolution of our earthly ties, and to seek for ourselves and for one another, an interest in

those promises which secure to those who love God and work righteousness, a happy reunion in a better world. And we would now and ever, with devout joy and gratitude, praise thee, O Heavenly Father, for thine infinite compassion to us in the gospel of thy Son; for all the consolation it affords us amid the darkness and sorrows of this life, and the blessed hopes it has brought us of the life that is to come. May we so spend the transient season of our probation here, that hereafter we may be found worthy to partake in the felicity of thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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12. AFTER A VOYAGE.

O Thou preserver of men, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are afar off upon the sea, we bless and praise thy holy name for thy goodness to our beloved relative and friend, in restoring him again to his home. Thine arm encircled him amid constant perils. Thy loving-kindness hath been his

stay and comfort in a distant land. Thou hast suffered no fatal evil to come nigh him, and hast brought him in peace to his desired haven. O may he understand the goodness of God, and consider how great things thou hast done for him. Assist us to realize that it is thou alone who hast kept his soul in life, and that to thee he owes all the prosperity which has crowned his enterprise. And in this season of rejoicing, may all our hearts be drawn in pious thankfulness towards thee, and fixed with new resolution in the purpose of obedience to thy holy laws. Let thy benediction be upon us, O Lord God of our salvation, through thy dear Son; in whose name be ascribed to thee, all glory and praise for ever. Amen.

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13. IN A TIME OF DROUGHT.

O Thou who alone causest the earth to yield its increase, and givest us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, have mercy, we beseech thee, upon us, and grant now the timely showers and refreshing rains,

that the labours of the husbandman may not be unavailing. Deliver us, O God, from the evils under which we suffer; and teach us by them our entire dependence upon thy power and goodness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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14. THANKSGIVING FOR RAIN.

O God, who crownest the year with thy goodness, who waterest the furrows, and enrichest the earth with rain and the plentiful dew of heaven, we thank thee for the refreshing showers which have been granted us. Continue this thy goodness to us, and grant that the labour of the husbandman may be rewarded with a copious harvest, and that there may be food for man and beast. Grant this, we pray thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

15. ON OCCASION OF AN ANNUAL THANKSGIVING.

EVER blessed GOD! source of all good, whose tender mercies are over all thy works, we rejoice in thy paternal government, in thy kind providence, and thy everlasting mercy. We would unite our tribute of praise with that which this day is ascending to thee from all around us; and we call on our souls, and all that is within us, to bless thy holy name. By thy kind hand we continue to this time, and are among the living to praise thee. Thou givest us richly all things to enjoy. Our cup runneth over with blessings. Inspire us with a gratitude in some measure corresponding to our obligations. Help us to remember the years of the right hand of the Most High, to think of thy loving-kindness, and meditate on all thy goodness to us; and may we present to thee such a tribute as will be acceptable in thy sight.

We give thee thanks, Father of mercies, that thou didst create us with the powers

and affections of rational beings; that we were born in this land of christian light, where we have been, from our earliest years, taught to know and love thee. The lines have fallen to us in pleasant places; yea, we have a goodly heritage. Blessed be thy name for the privileges we enjoy as members of civil society, and citizens of a free country; for the means of education, and the institutions of religion. We thank thee for all those favours which thou hast shown in times past unto our fathers, and for that general blessing which is now diffused throughout the community. We acknowledge and bless thee as the ruler of the seasons, from whose bounty we derive the constant supply of our wants, and all the delights of which our senses are the medium. We bless thee as the Lord of providence, whose care sustains us every moment, and whose protection is our only security. We thank thee, heavenly Parent, for those friends who have contributed so much to our happiness; for all the joys which flow from the domestic relations, and for those innumerable mercies of a personal nature which we now possess,

We unitedly praise thee, as the Father of the families of all the earth, and give thee our thanks for the blessings, which, as a family, we have enjoyed the past year.

Laden with the experience of thy goodness, we would adore the hand which has been the cause of so much happiness to us. Especially when we consider how unworthy we have been of the favours bestowed on us, we are constrained to magnify the exceeding riches of thy grace. Thou art kind, O Heavenly Father, to the evil and unthankful. Nor hast thou confined thy goodness to the present world, but, by thine unspeakable gift in the salvation of the world, hast laid us under the most powerful obligations to ceaseless praises. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for spiritual mercies in heavenly things in Christ Jesus; for the precious promises of pardon and eternal life; for the life, doctrine, and precepts of Jesus; for his resurrection as the pledge of our resurrection; and for his intercession at the right hand of the majesty on high. O God, teach us to see the worth of those benefits which we have received at thy

hands; and may they induce us to continual endeavours to shew forth our gratitude by the obedience of our lives.

And while we are reminded of the blessings which abound in our own condition, may we compassionate all who are destitute of them. Dispose us to do good according to the blessing we have received: Never may we withhold from thee those returns which it is in our power to make for thy goodness, but impart freely unto all who need, as thou shalt give us the opportunity. May we temperately enjoy the good things of life, and rejoice always with christian humility and moderation.

With cheerful hearts we would commend ourselves to thy mercy, beseeching the continuance of the blessings we now possess, so long as may be consistent with our eternal well-being. May thy benediction rest upon our neighbours, the community in which we dwell, our native land, and upon all the families of men throughout the earth.

Hear us, O God, in heaven, thy holy habitation; accept the praises we now offer thee, and prepare us for the purer services

and nobler enjoyments of a better life, through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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16. ON OCCASION OF A PUBLIC FAST.

GREAT GOD! governor and judge of the whole earth, who chargest even thine angels with folly, and before whom the heavens are not clean, it becomes us, the sinful children of men, to bow low in the dust before thee, and confess our unworthiness and sins. On this day set apart for humiliation and prayer, dispose us to reflect with a sober and contrite mind on our past lives, and may the services in which we shall engage in the house of worship be made profitable to our souls. Whatever is amiss in this family, may each of us be solicitous to correct it; and with greater zeal and fidelity than we ever yet have done, may we apply ourselves to the duties of our several stations and relations in life. In an especial manner, may we guard our conduct in our intercourse with the world, that we may not be partakers of other men's sins, nor by our example, counte-

nance prevalent evil customs or irreligious manners. May we so let our light shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may glorify our Father who is in heaven. Forgive us, if in any measure we have been guilty of promoting sin in the society around us; and in time to come, may we provide things honest in the sight of men, and before thee. By manners of spotless purity, and a well-ordered life, may we glorify thee, our God, and serve our generation. Dispose all classes of the community to reformation and penitence. May intemperance, profaneness, sensuality, fraud, violence, discord, and every evil work, cease from amongst us; and may purity, sobriety, temperance, the fear of God, and universal charity prevail. Pardon, Merciful Creator, the iniquities of thy people; and in thy great patience spare them from those evils which their sins have provoked. May the religion of Jesus, who gave himself for us, and was sent to bless us by turning us from our iniquities, be preached in its purity and power. And wilt thou make the labours of thy ministering servants effectual to the conversion

of the ungodly, the edification of thy church, and the spread of christian knowledge, piety, and charity. Bless the rulers set over us in the Lord. Bless those whose duty it is to administer justice. Bless all in places of authority and trust. May our land be ever favoured of the Most High God—the abode of freedom and religion—the glory of the whole earth. And may that portion of the human race which is now in heathenish darkness, groaning under oppression, and degraded by corrupt morals and false religions, come up in remembrance at thy mercy-seat. Deliver man, O God, from slavery, ignorance, and crime; send light, liberty, and peace over the whole earth; and let the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his beams, upon all the nations.

Hear our supplications, pardon our guilt, and preserve us from thy judgments, through our advocate and mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

17. AT THE CLOSE OF A YEAR.

O God! the hearer of prayer, we rejoice in the privilege of opening our hearts before thee, of supplicating thy mercy, and imploring the blessings we need. The heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, yet thou dwellest with the humble and contrite heart. The host of heaven worship thee, and archangels veil their faces in thy presence; yet shall our prayers rise to thee as incense, and our devotion as the evening sacrifice. Thou dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory: thou coverest thyself with light, as with a garment, and makest darkness thy pavilion;—yet thou regardest the things that are done in heaven and on earth; thou clothest the lily of the valley; thou watchest the sparrow in its fall, and even the hairs of our head are numbered.

To whom should we go but unto thee! Unto thee, whose providence is thus boundless and minute; who knowest all our wants, and who alone art able to supply

them; who continually carest for us, and whose mercies extend beyond this life into eternity.—Whither should we go but unto thee! The riches, the pomps, the pleasures and honours of the world, are fleeting and unsatisfactory. We are but of yesterday, and know nothing. Our faculties, how weak; our virtues, how debased by selfishness, by ignorance, and error! And life—it is even a vapour, which appeareth but a little while, and then vanisheth away. But thou hast immortality—thou art excellent in power, and mighty in wisdom. Thou knowest all things, and thy counsel standeth for ever.—To whom should we go but unto thee. Here, every thing is changing. The fashion of the world passeth away. Man dieth, and wasteth away. His beauty shall consume in the grave, and his place shall know him no more. Days, months, seasons, years, perpetually advance to a change, and roll unceasingly away. Of old hast thou laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hand; but even they shall perish—yea, all of them shall wax old, as doth a garment, and as a vesture shalt thou

change them, and they shall be changed. Thou only, O God, art unchanged and unchangeable, and thy years shall not fail. Whom then should we have in heaven but thee, and what upon earth should we desire beside thee!

God of our lives, and inexhausted fountain of mercy, we penitently confess our multiplied transgressions. Thou hast endowed us with rational souls, and hast beamed on our actions the steady light of conscience. But we have too often abused our reason, and shut our hearts to the admonitions of thy grace. Thou hast given us thy word as the rule of our lives; but we have preferred our own will to thine, and have gone astray from thy commands. We have been inconstant in our best purposes—have failed in our best endeavours, and been weary in the way to heaven. When we look back through the year which is now drawing to a close, and consider the time we have wasted or misspent; our strenuous exertions after imaginary good, and our neglect of our truest and best interests; our inordinate cares for the things of a moment, and our thoughtless-

ness of our immortal souls; when we consider the little good we have done, and the numberless opportunities of usefulness we have neglected; [when we remember our malevolent and selfish designs, our impure and vain imaginations, our idle words and slanderous insinuations, the pride and vanity of our spirit, the peevishness and violence of our passions and affections;] when we remember our ingratitude to thee, our creator, preserver, and redeemer; our indevotion; the coldness and impenitency of our hearts; when we compare our lives with that standard of perfect purity thou hast enjoined on us, we are confounded with the sense of our impiety and sinfulness. O reward us not after our iniquities, and let not thy compassions cease from us. Let not this year be our last year; but prolong to us the day of grace, and the means of salvation.

O God, we offer unto thee our thanksgivings for the mercies in which thou art continually displaying thyself unto us. We would thank thee especially for thy goodness to us through the year which is past, and for the innumerable blessings

which surround us. [We entreat thee to sanctify to us the afflictions thou hast this year appointed to us. We know that thou orderest all things for the best; and we would not murmur nor repine that thou hast given and hast taken away.]

We commend ourselves to thy care. Prepare us for life; prepare us for death, and for eternity. May we go on our way with new resolutions of obedience, with new gratitude for thy mercies, and new vigour to perform all thy will. And when our time shall be no more, receive us to thyself in glory; through Jesus Christ. AMEN.

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18. FOR A NEW YEAR.

O GOD, who hast brought us to the beginning of a new year, incite us to redeem the time misspent. We devoutly dedicate our lives to thee; entreating thee to forgive our past offences, to help our infirmities, and inspire us with holy purposes of amendment, with new and better principles of obedience. Thou art calling us to ob-

serve the revolutions of time, and the lapse of life. Thou measurest out to us our allotted portion, and continually remindest us of our progress towards its close. Our times are in thy hands. We look back on the past, and perceive thy providence directing every event. We look forward on the year before us, and all is darkness and uncertainty; but we know that thou wilt dispose all things, and we feel that thou art our protector and friend. Teach us to receive thy blessings with thankfulness, and to meet the troubles which thou appointest with fortitude. And as this may be to some of us our last year, animate us to greater diligence and circumspection. We thank thee, O merciful God, that thou hast so long borne with our many infirmities and provocations; that thou hast so long permitted us to partake of the joys of life, and to behold in thy works thy wisdom and goodness. We now commit ourselves to thee. Do with us as thou wilt. Make us faithful unto the end, and prepare us to obey thy call to another and a better world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.